Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-088
Monday
7 May 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-088 7 May 1990

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Baghdad To Host Arab Summit 15 May *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 5 May]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Call for 'Revolution of Daggers' Against Jews *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Faysal Al-Husayni on Intifadah, U.S. Congress *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 4 May]* 1
Muhammad Milhim on Arab Support for PLO *[Jeddah 'UKAZ 1 May]* 2
PLO Denies Any Connection With Amman Marches *[WAKH]* 4
PLO Executive Committee Opens Baghdad Meetings *[Baghdad VOP]* 4
'Arafat Asks for Meeting of Palestine Committee *[WAKH]* 4
PFLP-GC Said Organizing Prisoner Swap *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 5 May]* 4
PFLP's Al-Zibri on Israel, Arab Relations *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 3 May]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Renewal Party Elects Chairman, National Council *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Authorities Ban Ben Bella Emigre Paper *[Paris International]* 8

Egypt

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit 8
Meets Mubarak *[MENA]* 8
Comments on Talks With Mubarak *[MENA]* 8
Plan for Mini-Summit Reported *[MENA]* 8
Interior Minister on 'Extremist Al-Jihad' *[MENA]* 9
Al-Fayyum Jihad Leader Arrested in Bani Suwayf *[AL-AKHBAR 3 May]* 9
'Jihad Group' Member Arrested in Al-Minya *[AL-AKHBAR 4 May]* 10
'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Mubarak Visit to Syria *[MENA]* 10
King Husayn Phones President Mubarak *[MENA]* 10
Cairo, Jerusalem Sign 'Brotherliness Agreement' *[MENA]* 10
PRC Ambassador Previews Mubarak Visit *[MENA]* 10
Sidqi on Public Sector, IMF, Sectarian Strife *[AL-MUSAWWAR 4 May]* 11
Gasoline Prices To Increase 6 May *[MENA]* 15
Agricultural Research Agreement With USSR *[MENA]* 15

Libya

Further on Chemical Weapons Allegations 16
Sabha Facility Cited *[Hamburg DPA]* 16
'Official Source' Denies Report *[JANA]* 16
Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks to Crete Conference *[Tripoli TV]* 16
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Trade Union Officials *[Tripoli Radio]* 17
Libyan Arab Chadian Commission To Meet *[JANA]* 17

Mauritania

Gambian Minister Delivers Jawara Message *[Nouakchott Radio]* 17

Sudan

Al-Bashir Says Rebel Conspiracy 'Leftist Move' *[SUNA]* 18
'Umar Al-Bashir Issues Decree on Cooperatives *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
Al-Bashir Orders Two Doctors' Release *[SUNA]* 19
Khalifah Explains 'Truth' About Coup Attempt *[SUNA]* 19
Rebels Say Six More Officers Executed *[Radio SPLA]* 19
Cooperation Accords With Algeria, PDRY Ratified *[Omdurman Radio]* 19
Popular Delegation Departs for Iraq *[SUNA]* 19
New English-Language Newspaper Launched *[SUNA]* 19

Tunisia

Ben Ali Decrees Local Elections for 10 Jun *[Tunis Radio]* 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Former MP's To Boycott Council Elections *[AFP]* 21

United Arab Emirates

Joint Committee Meeting With South Yemen Ends *[WAKH]* 21

Yemen Arab Republic

Minutes for Prime Ministers' Unity Meeting *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Salih Phones Husayn, Condemns 'Attempt' on Yacht *[Sanaa Radio]* 22

IRAQ

Reportage on Iraqi-Turkish Joint Committee Talks 24
Prime Minister Akbulut Arrives 24
'Official' Talks Begin *[INA]* 24
Celebi, Hasan Confer *[INA]* 24
Saddam, Akbulut Hold Meeting *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
Cooperation Talks Resume *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
Delegation Meets Speaker Salih *[INA]* 25
'Satisfaction' Expressed *[INA]* 25
Reportage on Visit by King Husayn 25
Saddam Greets King on Arrival *[INA]* 25
Discuss Summit, 'Threats' *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
King Seen off by Saddam *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Delegation Visit 26
Welcomed by 'Izzat Ibrahim *[INA]* 26
Meet With Saddam *[INA]* 26
Judicial Cooperation Accord Signed With Bulgaria *[INA]* 26

ISRAEL

Alignment Decisions on Government, Peace Process 27
Stand 'Softening' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 27
Baker Not Mentioned in Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Peres: 'Yes to Baker' Valid *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
Commentary Views 'Cold Wind' Blowing From U.S. *[HA'ARETZ 4 May]* 30
U.S. 'Flirting With Appeasement' on Hostages *[THE JERUSALEM POST 6 May]* 31

Cabinet Briefed on Husayn Yacht, Other Issues *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32

JORDAN

Deputies, Notables Question National Charter *[Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI' 30 Apr]* 33
Israeli Firing at Royal Yacht 'Provocative' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 35

LEBANON

More on Hizballah Actions Regarding Hostages 36
Spain Urged To Free Detainees *[Tehran International]* 36
Fadlallah Favors Freeing Westerners *[Tehran International]* 36
Denies Holding Hostages *[AFP]* 36
TEHRAN TIMES: Bush Realized 'Mistake' *[AFP]* 37
Continuing Clashes With Israeli Forces Reported *[VOM]* 37
'Awn Vows To Attack 'Any Naval Target' *[Voice of National Resistance]* 37
'Violent Bombardment' of Coast *[VOL]* 37
Resistance Fighters Attack Five Lahd Positions *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Amal, Hizballah Clash in Beirut Suburb *[RFL]* 38

SYRIA

Al-Asad-Mubarak Summit 'Reconnects Two Pillars' *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Commentary on Damascus Summit *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Al-Shar' Discusses Hostages on U.S. TV Program *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 40
Saudi Crown Prince Pays Official Visit 40
Arrives in Damascus 5 May *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Meets With Al-Asad *[SPA]* 40
Visits With Khaddam, Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 40
TISHRIN Cited on Mubarak, 'Abdallah Visits *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Syrian-Soviet Economic, Technical Group Meets 41
Soviet Minister Arrives *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Meetings Open 5 May *[SANA]* 41
Israel Said To Reject 'Real' Peace Initiatives *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Foreign Minister Receives Message From PRC *[SANA]* 42

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Keshtmand Decreed First Deputy President *[Kabul Radio]* 43
Najibullah Decree on Elections Commissions *[Kabul Radio]* 43
Hizbollah Group Refutes Legitimation Claim *[IRNA]* 43
Government Buys Three Missiles From Rebels *[Kabul Radio]* 43
Regime Offensive in Jalalabad Pushes Rebels Back *[AFP]* 44
'Extremists' Fire Five Missiles at Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 44
State Security Operations in Kabul Detailed *[Kabul Radio]* 44
State Security Carries Out Jabal Os Saraj Ambush *[Kabul Radio]* 44
•Najibullah Escapes Assassination Attempt *[London KEYHAN 19 Apr]* 45
•Najibullah's New Reconciliation Plan Announced *[London KEYHAN 19 Apr]* 45

India

Troops Reportedly Kill Two Pakistani Soldiers *[AFP]* 45
Reportage on Fighting in Kashmir 46
Eight 'Subversives,' Four Others Killed *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Srinagar Curfew Relaxed *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Srinagar Government Offices Reopening *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Minister Discusses 'Strategy' *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Security Forces Seize Arms *[Delhi Radio]* 46
'Radical' Muslim Women's Group Banned *[AFP]* 47

U.S. Super 301 Trade Provisions Rejected 47
'Naked' Aggression Alleged *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Radio Commentary *[Delhi International]* 47
Further Reportage on 4 May ABD Annual Meeting 48
Afghan Minister Criticizes Ban *[AFP]* 48
Vietnam Seeks Loans *[AFP]* 49
Singh Invites Nepalese Premier for Talks *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Bangladesh Refugee Influx Reaches 'New High' *[AFP]* 49
Dalai Lama 'Has No Plans' To Visit Thailand *[AFP]* 50
Police Launch 'Major Hunt' for Delhi Bomber *[AFP]* 51
Punjab TV Tower Damaged in Rocket Attack *[Delhi Radio]* 51

Iran

Karrubi Says No Relations With U.S. Planned *[IRNA]* 51
Paper Stresses Iran's 'Humanitarian Convictions' *[AFP]* 52
Students Rally To Support Khamene'i Remarks 52
Resolution Issued *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Britain Condemned *[IRNA]* 53
Majles Committee Studies Letter From Iraq *[IRNA]* 53
Judiciary Reviews Domestic, Foreign Policy *[Tehran TV]* 53
Mohajerani Thanks Khamene'i for Letter *[IRNA]* 53
Ayatollah Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers 4 May *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Yazdi Says Khamene'i 'Commands' Require Obedience *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Upcoming 'Large-Scale' Naval Maneuvers Described *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Saudis Oppose Pilgrims Traveling to Mecca *[Tehran TV]* 57
Jamarani Protests Hajj 'Obstacles' *[IRNA]* 57
Reaction to OPEC Strategy on Oil Prices 57
TEHRAN TIMES Editorial *[24 Apr]* 57
Oil Minister Views Accord *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Oil Minister Statement *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Radio Commentary *[Tehran Radio]* 58
PRC Parliamentary Leader Wan Li Arrives 59
Meets Karrubi *[IRNA]* 59
Karrubi, Wan Speak *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Ahmad Khomeyni Supports Khamene'i Policies *[Tehran Radio]* 60

Inter-Arab Affairs

Baghdad To Host Arab Summit 15 May

JN0505070590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 May 90 pp 1, 20

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Excerpt] A Palestinian diplomatic source in Amman has said that the extraordinary Arab summit called for by the PLO will convene in Baghdad on Tuesday, 15 May, the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine. In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, the Palestinian source said that three Arab leaders—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques; Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid; and Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi—promised to convince Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to attend the extraordinary summit. The source added that an Arab strategy will be laid down at the summit to face the Israeli danger and Jewish emigration from the USSR. The summit will also give the PLO political and financial support to honor its commitment to the intifadah.

The Palestinian diplomatic source noted that President al-Asad's participation in the summit will clear the way for new inter-Arab relations, particularly on the level of Iraqi-Syrian relations, as well as for the convening of an Arab frontline states' conference to confront Israeli challenges.

On the visit to Damascus by a ranking Palestinian delegation, the source said the PLO set conditions for the visit, foremost of which are the release of Fatah detainees in Syria and unequivocal recognition of the State of Palestine declared in Algiers last year. The source added that the Syrian brothers promised to release the detainees who do not threaten Syrian security. At the same time, they are reviewing the lists of detainees to respond to the Palestinian demand. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Call for 'Revolution of Daggers' Against Jews

JN0605123390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Following yesterday's violent clashes in the occupied territories, in which a Palestinian was killed and 31 others were wounded, the Islamic Jihad Organization today called on the occupied territory Palestinians to attack the new Soviet Jewish immigrants with daggers. It said in a statement that it calls for what it called the revolution of daggers, for escalating the intifadah, and for jihad.

It is noteworthy that the Islamic Jihad Organization, which has emerged in the occupied Gaza Strip since the early 1980s, is not the same Islamic Jihad Organization which is holding Western hostages in Lebanon.

Faysal Al-Husayni on Intifadah, U.S. Congress

JN0605130790 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 May 90 p 5

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, director of the East Jerusalem Institute for Arab Studies, by Sana' al-'Alul in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [al-'Alul] What were the results of your visits to Belgium and Holland concerning economic relations with the European Economic Community [EEC] and the marketing of Palestinian products?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, this topic was discussed with the EEC officials, and they are considering more aid. We have explained the difficulties we are facing as a result of closing markets, marketing Palestinian products in particular, and the agricultural products, in addition to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities to the Palestinian farmers. We reminded them that their governments extend support to all farmers in the region, except for the Palestinian farmer. He remains unsupported, and therefore, deals with a Palestinian should not be accorded the same treatment as deals with other regions. The EEC officials have clearly understood this issue. Then, we talked about another issue, arguing that, since we have free access to the exportation of products, why don't we have freedom of importation too? In other words, why can't we have direct access to the importation of items that are imported by Israel. This is because we are facing an Israeli siege, whether on the level of basic commodities, foodstuffs, animal fodder, and other items. We will follow up this issue until we accomplish what we are seeking.

[Al-'Alul] Did you reach any agreement on special facilities after you had explained the issue of Palestinians agricultural products and the impediments Israel is placing?

[Al-Husayni] The EEC will now provide subsidies to the region that amount to $9 million. Part of this assistance will be allocated to providing facilities to the Palestinian farmer in order to establish the infrastructure and to facilitate exportation so that it will replace our quest for support. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Alul] In light of the new developments, whether in the Israeli or the Palestinian arenas, some people started to call for changing the method of the intifadah. What do you think?

[Al-Husayni] We have initiated a specific undertaking. We have taken on duties and tasks that have to be carried out. Some we have already carried out correctly, others have not been carried out correctly. That is why we have a defect, and before changing the method or way, we have to sustain the existing method and to carry out our duties and tasks without passing judgment on whether this action was right or wrong. Take, for example, what happened to the popular committees or the suburbs committees at the outbreak of the intifadah. We laid a burden on these committees which they could

not possibly bear. Consequently, these committees were stricken, and they have not been reestablished. Moreover, we relied on the strike forces which I have called "the soldiers of the intifadah", and this is dangerous. The aim behind the suburbs committees was to meet the needs of neighborhoods in light of the absence of authority so that they might support the intifadah, and so as to listen to the people, know about their problems, and convey these problems to the PLO in order for the PLO to be fully conversant with the people's burdens. There are many tasks that can affect the intifadah. We have to accomplish these in order to go a step further. Therefore, we should consider the prospects of success and failure in any undertaking. We cannot, however, alter the general basic line.

[Al-'Alul] The Unified National Leadership [of the Intifadah] [UNLI] proposed civil disobedience during the first months of the intifadah. This, however, did not see the light of day. What are the reasons for this?

[Al-Husayni] There are reasons for our inability to accomplish civil disobedience. First, since the beginning, we have proposed two contradicting aims: we proposed civil disobedience and boycotting of Israeli products and institutions. We want, at the same time, to replace these products with Palestinian products and commodities. Therefore, we needed to expand Palestinian industry, and it has been expanded accordingly. However, all the raw material we get is either from Israel or we have to import it from outside. In the lat r case, we have to get a permission from Israel and clearance from the income tax department. All of ? , stands in the way of civil disobedience. And sub: ntly, we were faced with this problem. This is the ce of the defect I have talked about, and this is one ? on which deepened the idea of civil disobedience a . led to the building of Palestinian industries which have developed into a quasi-infrastructure for future Palestinian economy. I can say that we might reach a stage when a state of civil disobedience will be declared. Then, we will be ready to close national factories, and this will be sometime in the final stages of national struggle. We have not attempted civil disobedience in the past two years, although we have prepared for it.

[Al-'Alul] What is the extent of the differences between the UNLI and the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], and how far do the contradictions between the UNLI and Hamas go?

[Al-Husayni] There are no discrepancies in the UNLI's statements. Talk about a split within the UNLI is surfacing now. True, there was disagreement over a limited number of things; it was a very short-lived disagreement and it has been overcome. As for Hamas, it does exist in the arena and we have coordination of sorts with it. This coordination, however, is not enough. We believe there will be more coordination in the future, especially because disagreement with Hamas surfaces only when something new overtakes the peace process. With the collapse of the Israeli Government and Shamir's resumption of power, there will be no more talk or plans; all these internal disagreements will come to an end.

[Al-'Alul] We were surprised by the way the United States reacted to recent developments and the attacks on churches, and by its decision—this is the reward the Palestinian people get—declaring Jerusalem the capital of Israel. How do you explain this?

[Al-Husayni] The U.S. Administration fully realizes the gravity of the situation. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, however, seem to view things differently. We can deal with this by applying more official Arab and popular Palestinian pressure on the United States. The U.S. decision, moreover, shows that Arab governments are incapable of dealing effectively with the U.S. Government. To reach the members of Congress, we have to follow events closely and concentrate more on delegations that undertake to clarify the reality of things and on successive protests and sit-ins; eventually, they will have to change their views.

Muhammad Milhim on Arab Support for PLO

PM0405151090 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 1 May 90 p 3

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Muhammad Milhim by Samir al-Hiyari in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Hiyari] When we talk about the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship we are talking about a single people. So what measures will be taken to defend that people against the danger facing it, especially in view of the Jewish emigration and Israel's constant threats to the Arab nation?

[Milhim] Undoubtedly the the first step starts from within. The internal popular, official, military position must be strengthened. That is the natural thing so long as there is a threat of aggression. There must be mobilization and preparedness. The second step is to enhance and draw up an overview of a Jordanian-Palestinian relationship that includes among its priorities coordination with a view to confronting the threat and tackling the other problems. This coordination must start between the Jordanian and Palestinian leadership and then extend to the Arab arena, especially the frontline states. An emergency Arab summit can no longer be postponed. The next Arab summit is the summit of mobilization to confront aggression—not Arab mobilization, but mobilization of the frontline states backing the central Arab rearguard.

[Al-Hiyari] That leads us to another question, about the possibilities of holding the Arab summit, in the light of the threats in question. What can the PLO do with regard to raising at the conference the idea of drawing up a unified Arab plan to confront these threats?

[Milhim] Confrontation is the PLO's frontline. Political moves are the rear line. Visits by Palestinian delegations to the East or West or the meetings with Carter, Mitterrand, or in Czechoslovakia are the rear of the frontline, which is the intifadah line. This Palestinian position is similar to the expanded Arab position which we mentioned when we spoke about strengthening the Arab frontline by the Arab rearguard and strengthening the intifadah by a Palestinian-Jordanian rearguard. So the PLO has a plan. This is what is happening now in terms of coordination and preparation for the intifadah's next phase, which Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] spoke about and which is being prepared for by strengthening internally and filling the gaps between the strike group and the organizations and between the [intifadah] unified command and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. This is now being done, and tireless work is continuing to strengthen the front's internal line, that is, the intifadah line. Both the Palestinian aspect and the Jordanian aspect that we mentioned will be raised at the Arab summit. The Arab aspect—namely the frontline states' support—will also be broached. We must not allow the frontline to collapse, because if—God forbid—it does, the second line, Jordan, will be threatened. In the past we used to talk about a summit committing itself to providing financial support for the intifadah, but the situation is different now. The backing required now is to prepare conditions in the Arab homeland to strengthen the intifadah and prepare the Arab arena to be its rearguard. As for the third line after Jordan, it is, of course, the Iraqi-Syrian force. These three lines—Jordan, Syria, and Iraq—are sufficient for the intifadah. So what if the strike forces—Jordan, Iraq, Syria, the PLO, and the intifadah—are realized?

This scheme is of a military nature, because Israel is talking not only about millions of emigres arriving to settle there, but also about satellites, chemical and nuclear weapons, and ICBM's—which means mobilization and an inclination to launch some kind of a strike. So a strike force must be prepared in order to prevent that aggression. What Iraq is doing is preparing to preempt an expected Israeli strike. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hiyari] Talking of an effective Iraqi-Syrian-Jordanian-Palestinian power, what has been done to improve Palestinian-Syrian relations? Will the PLO play a role in achieving an Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation?

[Milhim] Without doubt the Jordanian foreign minister's visit to Syria and the message conveyed by sister Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir] lie within the framework of mending the rift and overcoming differences. This cannot be achieved by wishes and statements, but only through real actions when each party—whether the PLO, Syria, Jordan, or Iraq—takes practical steps in view of the imminent danger. [passage omitted]

We of the PLO are seeking to restore Syrian-Palestinian relations, which are a Palestinian, Syrian, and Arab requirement. The atmosphere now is better than in the past, and the PLO could play an effective and major role with regard to Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation if it establishes an atmosphere of understanding and full coordination with Syria. Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation is likely to be discussed at any meeting at any level, but it would be more effective when Syrian-Palestinian relations have been strengthened. We would then be able to reach a solution of Iraqi-Syrian disputes. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hiyari] You seem to regard the emigration in military rather than than political terms. Does this mean that the PLO has a new approach, namely, the intention to set a peaceful solution aside, especially since Israel remains intransigent?

[Milhim] When the PLO presented the peace initiative it did not do so in a vacuum. It proceeded from strength, not weakness. It presented it through the intifadah, which confused Israel and has won the world's admiration—which is a victorious position and a challenge. The intifadah is a different kind of war and Israel was not prepared for it. So the war still stands. There is a daily war in Palestinian streets. The peace initiative was presented during that war. It was not presented in a vacuum with regard to military action. There is no decision by the PLO to stop military action. If the PLO, or any Arab state, does not propose peace from a strong position, nothing will be achieved.

In this age only the voice of the strong is heard. So if the voice of peace comes from someone who is strong, it will be heard. But if it comes from someone who is weak, it will not be heard. The defeated cannot make peace. The strong are heeded. With regard to your saying that I speak from a military angle, I am speaking about preparing the front, the principal strike force, and the two defense lines. This preparation does not mean aggression against anyone or a breach of the move toward peace. The objective is to strengthen them to defend peace. And a deterrent Arab position guarantees peace. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hiyari] With regard to the peace initiative and the dialogue with Israel, we have heard that there are those within the PLO who are warning against such an approach, which they describe as designed to abort the Palestinian intifadah. What is your opinion?

[Milhim] When the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue was approved by the Central Council on 15 October, the Council's statement said that a dialogue is held between enemies, not friends, since the latter do not need a dialogue. Its objective is to find a political solution, eliminate the occupation, and establish a state, which is why the intifadah was launched. The claim that the dialogue is designed to abort the intifadah is a weak argument which serves neither the peace cause nor the Palestinian people's cause.

[Al-Hiyari] Shamir has been given some time to form an Israeli government. How will the failure or success of these attempts affect the peace initiative?

[Milhim] We would be mistaken to rely much on what any Zionist party—Labor or Likud—can offer. We have

42 years' experience of Israel, during which we have known each of them and their aims. They are the two sides of the same coin. Both give the Palestinian people nothing but words. So we must not be deceived by the differences which we see in the enemy arena. We must not delude ourselves, because it is impossible to create a peace camp in Israel, and there will never be a de Gaulle. Only an economically and militarily coherent Arab position can impose a solution. This, because Israel has a "Massada [mass suicide] mentality"—to the last man. That is the Zionist mentality. What reflects the strength of the Arab position is the unity of ranks represented by the Arab military strike force.

PLO Denies Any Connection With Amman Marches

JN0505203090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1945 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Amman, 5 May (WAKH)—The PLO has denied any connection with the marches scheduled to be held in Amman in May and June in the direction of the occupied Palestinian territories.

This was announced by PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya in a statement issued tonight. In the statement, al-Yahya said that the PLO has nothing whatsoever to do with the two marches. He added that special arrangements, preparations, and finances for these two marches were conducted without PLO participation.

It is to be recalled that the first march will be held by Jordanian and Arab trade unions on the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine next week; whereas the second march will be organized by the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee early June.

There have been rumors that participants in the second march will carry Israeli and Palestinian flags if they manage to cross [the Jordan River] into the occupied Arab territories. This elicited angry reactions in Jordan, with the Islamists threatening to use force to thwart the march.

PLO Executive Committee Opens Baghdad Meetings

JN0505220390 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1824 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Under the chairmanship of brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the PLO Executive Committee began meetings in Baghdad this morning. The Committee will discuss political, economic, and organizational issues, especially the situation in the occupied homeland and developments in the massive Palestinian intifadah against the escalating Zionist oppression and terrorism campaigns against it. The Committee will also discuss the general Arab situation and the Arab summit which, it is hoped, will be held in Baghdad toward the end of this month.

'Arafat Asks for Meeting of Palestine Committee

JN0505180490 Manama WAKH in English 1534 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Doha, May 5 (GNA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has sent messages to Arab countries, members of the eight-man committee on Palestine requesting that the committee convene an urgent meeting in Rabat or any other Arab capital at the foreign ministers' level, press reports published here today said. Qatari Arabic newspaper AL-SHARQ said 'Arafat was profoundly upset that the committee has not convened a single meeting despite his previous calls to this effect.

PFLP-GC Said Organizing Prisoner Swap

JN0505065690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 May second edition p 1

[By Fu'ad Husayn]

[Text] Amman—A senior Palestinian official has said that preparations are under way for a major operation to exchange Palestinian detainees and Israeli prisoners.

The official said the operation will follow an arrangement made by Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], whose organization holds a number of Israeli prisoners.

The Palestinian official added that Jibril has charged a special committee with preparing lists for the Palestinian detainees who will be exchanged for the Israeli prisoners.

The official explained that Jibril instructed the committee to give priority to Palestinian women militants detained in Israeli jails regardless of their organizational affiliation, and then to the militants sentenced to long prison terms from all factions, Islamic forces, and independents who carried out operations against the occupation.

He pointed out that the swap now being organized will be similar to the operation known as "al-Jalil [Galilee] Operation" of 1985 in which 1,150 Palestinian detainees were released, 605 of whom remained in the occupied territories after their release and now lead the intifadah in the occupied territories.

The official explained that this will be the third exchange to be concluded by the PFLP-GC under Ahmad Jibril with great success.

The official said that the number of detainees to be released in this operation will be more than 1,000 Palestinian and Arab militants from various Palestinian factions ad Arab forces.

In a related development, Palestinian sources have said that Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, had been informed of the matter and had blessed the efforts made in this regard.

PFLP's Al-Zibri on Israel, Arab Relations

JN0505113690 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 May 90 p 5

[Interview with Mustafa al-Zibri, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ali Mustafa, member of the PLO Executive Committee and of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Wafa' 'Amr in Amman during "his first visit to Jordan in 20 years"—date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Amr] How do you assess Palestinian-Jordanian relations?

[Al-Zibri] The phase that followed Jordan's decision in July 1988 to disengage [severance of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank], and the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council [PNC] have removed many of the ambiguities related to the Palestine question, whether those connected to the proposed alternatives or any other. The removal of these ambiguities will undoubtedly pave the way for relations based on the Arab summits' resolutions.

Additionally, the emergence of a democratic climate in Jordan's public life has also paved the way for a fundamental relationship. However, our views on the emergence of the democratic climate and our views on the pursuance of the tasks of the national battle against Israeli occupation to achieve the Palestinian objective of self-determination and the establishment of the independent state on Palestinian soil cannot be separated. In this regard, we think the Israeli threats against Jordan are also threats against the Palestinians' national cause. Therefore, we do not stand idle or neutral about these threats. On the contrary, we feel we are in the same battle to face the Israeli schemes, especially when they talk about the alternative homeland. The issue of the alternative homeland will not only harm Jordan and the Jordanian people, but it will primarily harm the Palestine question. Therefore, we are as interested as Jordan in resisting this Israeli proposal.

Hence, we believe liberation as a joint national task must go along with the emergence of a democratic climate. We see the battle for democracy and the battle for liberation as inseparable. If anyone has the illusion that the issue can be subjected to barter—that is call for democracy and forget the other issue—we say that we consider the issue of liberation as important as the issue of freedom. Equally, the Arab citizen cannot marshal all his resources for the battle of liberation if he lacks freedom and democracy.

['Amr] Does this mean armed struggle through Jordan and revolutionizing the Jordanian people?

[Al-Zibri] We feel that as far as military action is concerned, our program is sound. It must be understood that we are a faction that constantly calls for the opening of Arab borders for the Palestinian resistance. Here, I mean the borders of the countries neighboring the Palestinian territories. This goes for Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, as well as Egypt. We deserve to play that role. This does not mean we want to show hostility toward, or cause troubles for this or that regime, but it means we want to face the Israeli occupation, and we feel this is our national duty. And, although bringing this about may be difficult at times and in certain fields, this should not justify the closing of other fronts in our face.

In this regard, I recall an issue related to the Lebanese crisis. When the war against Palestinian camps in Lebanon started, Amal Movement leaders, including Shaykh ['Abd-al-Amir] Qabalan, used to say: Why should southern Lebanon alone carry the burden of Palestinian fighting against Israeli occupation? The same can be said about Amman or Damascus. Our answer was that the closure of certain Arab borders in our face does not justify the closure of others. Closure should not become the rule; instead, we must endeavor to open what is closed and not close what is open.

The Arab regimes surrounding Palestine unwittingly give Israel extraordinary strength when they express fear of Israel's reaction, thus enabling Israel to realize its aims without paying anything in return. Arab conditions may undergo changes during the coming phase, and I allude to Iraq's readiness to confront the Israeli aggression and to defend any Arab state exposed to Israeli aggression. I believe what is meant here is primarily Jordan.

Why do we continue to spread fear and to refrain from pooling our efforts and resources to fight the Israeli occupation, now that there are forces in the area that could confront Israel with strategic weapons? This is a question.

Another question is: How can we arrange support for the intifadah if we eliminate one of the elements of this support, namely, firepower? On the first day of 'Id al-Fitr [26 April], we gave up five martyrs and 150 wounded. Is it possible that we are incapable of injuring a single Israeli soldier? In one of its statements, the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah said it would kill an Israeli soldier for each Palestinian martyr. We should not blame our people in the occupied territory for not being able to carry out this decision. But, are we not to blame for our failure to carry this decision out when we have the resources and thousands of rifles in our hands?

In Lebanon for example, we have 12,000 fighters. The intifadah is fighting with stones and with the living flesh of the people. Is it not our duty to make the intifadah feel that some people are doing their duty to back it with firepower? And how can this be done if all Arab borders are sealed? Do we have to accept [former Lebanese Phalange party leader] Pierre al-Jumayyil's notion that "Lebanon's strength lies in its weakness?" If this notion is applied to the Arab situation, Israel will be given justification to strengthen its hand and reach any Arab ruler in his own home. Therefore, we say: Do not confront Israel by showing fear but by challenging it.

We have not changed our conviction that our struggle with the Zionist scheme is a long-term one, even if the language of political solution and international conference prevails in the region at some point. Nothing has changed in terms of Israel's historical 'no's', the Jabotinski [Zionist movement theoretician] mentality of readiness to kill, expel, and destroy the Palestinian people, and the Greater Israel slogan.

An enemy is occupying our land. We want to fight this enemy. We may talk politics but not from a position of weakness. We talk politics while fighting.

We are asked to drop our rifles for nothing. We have not liberated an inch. What is required is to mobilize the Palestinian and Arab determination to back the intifadah. This requires organizing Palestinians outside the occupied territory to place the resources of each Palestinian at the service of the intifadah, which is the common denominator. We have adopted this slogan in the Palestinian leadership but the practical implementation has not reached the required level yet. By organizing the Palestinians outside I mean that our people have numerous fighting resources to back the intifadah. Some Palestinians can provide funds, some can work in the media, some in politics and international relations, and some Palestinian youths are ready to take up arms and fight alongside the intifadah. The question is: How can we organize the Palestinian people's resources to direct them at one target, namely, defeating the Israeli occupation?

We cannot burden the intifadah with more than it can carry and say that the intifadah is doing everything, carrying out local and strategic plans for us while we sit back watching and holding it responsible for liberating the land from the River [Jordan] to the [Mediterranean] Sea. This is a mistake. Like the human body, the intifadah has energy and stamina that sustains it, even if it has been an extraordinary phenomenon. Some people had expected that it would end within a short time but it has proved to be a slap in the face of many and demonstrated that it can go on for years.

['Amr] Preparations are under way to convene a new PNC session. What do you seek from the coming session?

[Al-Zibri] We view the PNC on two levels. We view the PNC as an organizational and legislative body. This view relates to what is needed in the PLO bylaw to perpetuate PLO institutions, particularly the highest institution, the PNC. We also view the PNC as a major station in which we discuss the intifadah and the ways to activate it, and in which we review the policy drafted by the PNC in its 19th session which laid down the political working plan for the PLO.

The following question should be raised within the PLO: What has been achieved with regard to the political plan and how were political approaches used in this plan? Here, we should have the courage to announce our achievements and our failures. Through the PNC we shall know what the result of our action is.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat said at his press conference at the conclusion of the 19th PNC session: "If it is proven that this political plan yields nothing for the Palestinian people, I will call a PNC session to say that this plan has yielded nothing." When we expressed our opposition to including Resolution No. 242 in the plan as a basis for a solution, Dr. George Habash—in his capacity as secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—stood up and said: "We represent the opinion of the minority; we will keep our opinion. We will not become an obstacle to the majority's plan and policy. If we discover that we are mistaken in our assessment, we will come here to criticize ourselves."

We should assess our action against this background and with this awareness. Our mind is not closed to the achievements. However, at the same time, we should point out the failures. We want the PNC to practice its organizational, constitutional, and political role, which gives general outlines to the horizons of the new stage in the national Palestinian struggle. We do not need to make an assessment without laying down a working plan; we should prepare ourselves for a new stage. I am optimistic; since there is one Arab country that spoke about the military option in the confrontation with Israel, I believe we can say that we would be in front of a new stage in waging the political conflict. On the Arab level, we might be heading toward a stage that has these features. Yes, I am optimistic. Therefore, we should prepare for a new stage in which statements of appeasement, which result from Israeli pressures, are not the political basis; a plan designed to face the conflict should be the political basis.

['Amr] Do you think that a major Arab country like Egypt can take such a position?

[Al-Zibri] It would be very difficult for Egypt to play any role in the conflict with the Israeli enemy unless it leaves, or is forced out of Camp David. This is because Egypt's hands are tied and it is satisfied with this position. And because Egypt is tied with Camp David, it will not fight Israel. I say we do not demand that Egypt enter a war, but that it do what Sri Lanka had done. Let Egypt say that it is not prepared to continue the ties with Israel, which is murdering the Palestinian people. Why does not Egypt close its embassy in Israel and say that it is not prepared to deal with Israel as long as it continues to pursue a policy of bloody repression against the Palestinian people? The opposite has happened. At a time when Israel was committing all sorts of ugly crimes against the Palestinian people, a poisonous campaign was launched by certain Egyptian writers against the PLO and the Palestinian people following the story of the Ismailia bus and over the question of moving the Arab League headquarters. The words said against the Palestinian people and the PLO by certain writers in the Egyptian press were not said even by Israel, which commits daily crimes against the Palestinian people. Is this the Egypt that can enter the sphere of conflict against Israel? I think not. [passage omitted]

['Amr] How far have Syrian-Palestinian relations gone? Is there any progress?

[Al-Zibri] All that has been said so far does not give a real answer on the Palestinian-Syrian relations. There may be an opportunity to rectify relations through our call to revive the eastern front to face the Zionist threat. This mandates sound relations between the PLO and Syria since they both are major members of the eastern front. We are ready to have the front as an organizational framework to respond to Israeli threats.

If we want the Arab summit to be successful, we must have correct relations. We call for relations with Syria. However, we believe that these relations should not be based on feelings, but on nonintervention in PLO affairs, Arab summits' resolutions, and cooperation in facing the Israeli enemy.

There is another factor related to this; that is the release of those detained in Syrian jails. Syria has released some detainees because of poor health, but we have not yet dealt with the issue of detainees as a whole. There is a large number of them—something like 2,000—and releasing 10 or 50 of them is not the solution. The question that has to be asked here is: Why have all those Palestinians been detained for so long? Are they hostages? Here Syria is helping to release hostages. So, why should it not consider them hostages and release them? We hope practical steps will be taken before the summit.

Algeria

Renewal Party Elects Chairman, National Council

LD0505030490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 May 90

[Correspondent Ahmed Charmati report on the final session of Algerian Renewal Party constituent congress in Algiers on 4 May]

[Text] The proceedings of the constituent congress of the Algerian Renewal Party, held for the last two days at the Oval Hall at the 5 July Complex, were crowned by the election of Mr. Noureddine Boukrouh as chairman of the party. The National Council of the party, or what some proposed to call the Shura Majlis [council of constitutions] was also elected. It includes 110 members who represent 43 wilayas, whereby each wilaya is represented by two members, except Jelfa and Baidh, which are represented by one member each.

Following the election of the members of the Shura Majlis, the chairman of the party proposed to the delegates the appointment of two female members to join the Majlis, which resulted in a sort of tension in the hall, caused by one delegate who opposed this appointment, which is contrary to the statute of the party. The appointment of the two women was finally adopted by the majority of the delegates.

The party chairman, Noureddine Boukrouh, said in his final speech that the Shura Majlis will hold its first meeting in a few days in order to ratify the final draft of the statute, and form a national bureau of the party.

Authorities Ban Ben Bella Emigre Paper

LD0405124390 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] The Algiers authorities have banned the distribution of the paper of former President Ahmed Ben Bella. TRIBUNE D'OCTOBRE, the name of the monthly paper published in France by a French company, is considered in Algeria to be a foreign publication. For their part the supporters of the first leader of the Algerian state do not rule out the possibility of alliances with other political groupings for, I quote, the defense of the essence of being Arab and Isamic and the call for the necessary conditions to be prepared for the application of the shari'a, the Islamic Law.

Egypt

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

Meets Mubarak

NC0605094290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the presidential offices this morning.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Saudi Ambassador As'ad Abu-al-Nasr also attended the meeting.

The Saudi foreign minister arrived in Cairo earlier today for a brief visit to Egypt. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, who received him at the airport, stated that the Saudi guest is carrying a message for President Mubarak from King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Comments on Talks With Mubarak

NC0605115190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met with President Husni Mubarak for one and a half hours this morning. Later he said that he had given the president a message from his brother Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

He said: "This message deals basically with the issues that have been discussed by the Egyptian-Saudi Higher Joint Committee and the points included in them that require constant coordination and consultation between the leaders of the two countries."

He added: "I had the great honor of listening to his excellency the president's views on these issues which concern the Arab group in the present circumstances. I will continue my talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this afternoon."

Asked whether the issue of the forthcoming Arab summit was raised during the meeting, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: We discussed the summit and current Arab issues. He added that the two countries have always played a role in supporting Arab summits and this will naturally continue. He noted that the two countries, as President Mubarak had often stated, emphasized that full and satisfactory preparation must be made for any Arab summit.

To a question on whether there has been a proposal to change the venue of the summit, the Saudi foreign minister said: We did not discuss this issue during the meeting.

Plan for Mini-Summit Reported

JN0605125490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 May 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] In an unexpected development, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Cairo this morning. He held a lengthy round of talks with President Husni Mubarak in the presence of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. Egyptian newspapers this morning affirmed that Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz would visit Cairo at the end of his tour of Damascus, Amman, and Baghdad. However, the foreign minister arrived in the Egyptian capital to discuss the mini-summit the kingdom is proposing to hold

in Riyadh. This summit will comprise Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Palestine and is designed to achieve Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation and discuss the agenda of the forthcoming Arab summit conference. Our radio has learned that President Mubarak asserted to the Saudi foreign minister Egypt's readines to participate in any step toward achieving Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation before the convening of the Baghdad summit.

During the meeting, the Saudi foreign minister briefed President Mubarak on the results of the meeting which took place yesterday between the Saudi crown prince and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Sources have affirmed that President al-Asad agreed in principle to participate in the mini-summit on condition that there should be full guarantees for its success. These sources also said that Saudi Arabia's step to secure Egyptian agreement to participate in the summit was necessary before the Saudi crown prince's meeting with President Saddam Husayn and that for this reason, the Saudi foreign minister made his surprise visit to Cairo. Our radio has also learned that during his telephone contact yesterday, Jordanian King Husayn informed President Mubarak that his meeting with President Saddam Husayn was very successful and that the Iraqi president showed great flexibility toward reconciliation with Syria.

Interior Minister on 'Extremist Al-Jihad'

NC0605072090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0618 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Egyptian Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has announced that a plan designed to terrorize the police forces has been foiled. According to the plan, which was to have been carried out by the extremist al-Jihad organization, a number of incendiary bombs and explosive charges were to have been thrown at police stations in Cairo and al-Jizah.

In a statement to the newspaper Al-AHRAM, published today, the interior minister revealed that three al-Jihad leaders and 25 members of the organization who had been instructed to carry out the plan in Cairo and al-Jizah have been arrested. He said that a quantity of firearms, hand-to-hand combat weapons, incendiary bombs, and explosive devices has also been seized.

He added that the detainees were immediately referred to the state security prosecutor's office for interrogation.

In his statement to AL-AHRAM, the Egyptian interior minister asserted that it has been incontrovertibly proved that the extremist al-Jihad organization is behind those who have a vested interest in destabilizing the situation in the country. He explained that there is an ideological link between this organization's members and those who have the same ideology in other countries, and noted that this link extends to the "organized or planned financing" of the organization.

'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that the recent violent incidents in some Upper Egypt governorates have proved that the al-Jihad organization has developed its structure since some of its leaders and members—who are well-known to the security forces—were arrested. He pointed out that the organization recently resorted to recruiting youths and driving them to acts of violence after instilling in their minds its erroneous ideology of regarding society as infidel.

The interior minister denied that the security forces have any intention of physically liquidating the al-Jihad organization by killing its members. He asserted that the loss of life that resulted from the clashes between the police and the extremists in Asyut, al-Minya, and Bani Suwayf occurred because the organization's members themselves began firing at the security forces, who were compelled to retaliate.

He said that 16 members of the extremist organizations were killed in the al-Fayyum incidents. He pointed out that three police officers were injured during those incidents, one of them seriously. He added that five noncommissioned officers and men were also injured.

'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that, despite all the operations it has carried out, the extremist al-Jihad organization is not strong enough to a degree that would worry the security organs. He added that all its members are under control [as received] as is proved by the fact that operations are foiled before being completed.

The interior minister said that the extent and size of this organization is known to the security organs and that it does not represent an unknown quantity for them. He added: We can destroy this organization completely but democratic practice makes us adhere to still more democracy and to President Mubarak's instructions on this matter.

In his statements, 'Abd-al-Halim Musa denied that telephones are tapped in Egypt without a court order or without compelling reasons. He stressed that he completely rejects the tapping of the telephones not only of senior politicians but also of any Egyptian citizen, because this would be "an immoral act." He said that he will bring to trial any police official who orders the tapping of the telephone of any citizen without a court order.

Regarding the problem of drugs, the Egyptian interior minister stressed that this is one of the most important problems currently facing the security organs in Egypt. He added that combating drugs is a priority for the Egyptian security organs.

Al-Fayyum Jihad Leader Arrested in Bani Suwayf

JN0405163690 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 3 May 90 p 7

[By Buthaynah Zakariya]

[Excerpt] Bani Suwayf Investigation Police yesterday arrested 28-year-old 'Ali 'Atiyyah Shamardan Sa'id

Muhammad, second in command in the Jihad Organization in al-Fayyum, while he was trying to escape from al-Fayyum to Bani Suwayf together with 17 members of the extremist group in al-Fayyum. [passage omitted]

'Jihad Group' Member Arrested in Al-Minya

JN0505204190 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 4 May 90 p 11

[Text] Al-Minya Police have apprehended Sharif Abu-Tabkhah, second in command to the leader of the extremists in the governorate, following a chase. The suspect—head of the military wing of the Jihad group—is a law student.

Lieutenant Colonel Nabil Fahmi, chief of investigation in the al-Minya center, had received a tip that the suspect used to visit friends in the village of Tala. An ambush was set up and he was caught in possession of a knife. He was referred to the prosecution for investigation and to face charges of involvement in the sectarian sedition in al-Minya and Abu Qurqas as well as incitement to sabotage.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Mubarak Visit to Syria

NC0505144490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Syria was a success by every measure. In a statement today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the meetings between Presidents Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad reflected the strong relations between the Egyptian and Syrian peoples. He added that a new leaf has been turned in relations between the two countries.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that both countries are eager to further develop these relations in a way that serves the interests of the two countries and the entire Arab nation.

'Abd-al-Majid noted that that an agreement was signed between the two countries on establishing a higher joint committee, which is to hold its first meeting in Cairo. This committee, he said, will provide the framework for strengthening and developing bilateral relations in various fields.

King Husayn Phones President Mubarak

NC0605054590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2208 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan telephoned President Husni Mubarak this evening.

The two leaders exchanged views on a number of important Arab issues.

Cairo, Jerusalem Sign 'Brotherliness Agreement'

NC0405143890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Alexandria, 4 May (MENA)—A brotherliness agreement [ittifaqiyat al-ta'akhi] between the cities of Cairo and Holy Jerusalem was signed today. Cairo Governor Dr. Mahmud al-Sharif and Muhammad Ruhi al-Khatib, mayor of Holy Jerusalem [before 1967], signed the agreement.

Alexandria Governor Counselor Sayyid al-Jawsaqi; 'Abd-al-Qadir Hamzah Kushk, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Cities and Capitals [OICC]; and heads and members of the Islamic delegations participating in the works of the 14th session of the OICC administrative council took part in the signing ceremony.

The OICC concluded its work in Alexandria today.

PRC Ambassador Previews Mubarak Visit

NC0605132990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1146 GMT 6 May 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—PRC Ambassador in Cairo Zhan Shiliang has asserted that President Husni Mubarak's visit to China, which begins this Friday, represents an important development in the history of Egyptian-Chinese friendly relations. In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent, Mr. Zhan said the visit comes in response to the Chinese president's visit to Egypt last December.

The PRC ambassador said his country trusts that President Mubarak's visit will help open new horizons for cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

He added that the world is currently experiencing major changes and that President Mubarak and the PRC leadership will exchange views in this connection to find ways to enhance cooperation among Third World countries and give an impetus to the world peace and development process.

Mr. Zhan expressed his support for President Mubarak's initiative to declare the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction. He said the PRC is prepared to cooperate with Egypt, through the United Nations and other organizations, to achieve this end as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Asked about the PRC's stand on the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, Ambassador Zhan asserted that his country is firmly opposed to their settlement in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the other occupied Arab territories. This large-scale Jewish settlement undermines peace in the region, he said.

Commenting on the U.S congressional resolution considering Jerusalem the capital of Israel, the PRC ambassdor remarked that the resolution violates international law and UN resolutions and has an adverse impact on the peace process in the region.

Asked about Chinese-Soviet rapprochement and what effect this will have on peace in the Middle East, he said this rapprochement will serve the Arab cause in view of China's friendly relations with Arab countries in general.

Sidqi on Public Sector, IMF, Sectarian Strife

JN0605110590 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 4 May 90 pp 4-13

[Interview with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi by Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-MUSAWWAR] Mr. Prime Minister, our dialogue must begin with a current issue, that is the selling of some public sector units. Everybody is asking questions right now. People are wondering: If it has been decided to sell some public sector units in accordance with a specific program, what is the nature of this program? What controls will govern this process? And what precautions will be put in force as regards the purchase of these units?

[Sidqi] I would like to take this opportunity to greet AL-MUSAWWAR, as we have not met for a long time. You have the right to blame me for failing to meet you throughout this long period.

As you said, the issue currently under consideration concerns all aspects and forms of the public sector. We seek, before any selling or purchasing is undertaken, to put the public sector and public funds to the best and most efficient possible use. Our objective is to produce more, to expand the production base, and to create further job opportunities for our sons and daughters, regardless of whether they are university or institute graduates. We have some 550,000 Egyptian youths seeking job opportunities every year.

As a matter of fact, we have managed during the past three or four years, and I am here speaking in all frankness and honesty, to rid ourselves of some of the slogans which used to be raised by some within the framework of conflicting ideologies. Right now, we are attempting to come to terms with reality and to espouse the practical means that would achieve our objectives: to expand the production base and increase job opportunities for our sons.

Since the sixties, we have been talking of the need to free the public sector of its restrictions. However, we have failed to make significant progress in this regard. I believe there is no longer any excuse for further delay. We all acknowledge that the public sector has played a great role. It has continued and will continue to play that role. According to the law, the public sector in Egypt is a term that has a specific definition. The public sector units which we intend to sell off do not fall under this definition. Egyptian public sector companies operating nowadays are of two types. In the first type, state ownership of these companies is 100 percent. The second type includes companies actually belonging to the mixed sector. Public funds contribute more than 50 percent of the shares in these companies; that is, 51 percent. According to the law, these companies are public sector companies unless they were established under Investment Law No. 230, the bill which used to be known as Law No. 43.

As for companies established under Law No. 43, they are considered mixed sector companies according to the law. To reveal all the facts to you, I would like to tell you that some of these companies were established from outside the public sector for purposes on which we might differ. We might differ on whether the decisions to establish them were correct or not. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Can we say that the public sector will, with the advent of 1992-93, be able to manage without the need for any financing by the state treasury?

[Sidqi] This is our plan. I believe we will achieve this objective. Reform as I understand it entails all this, all that you have just said, including fostering self-reliance by the public sector companies, effecting a separation between ownership and management, rectifying financial structures, and removing the existing overlapping. I hope that we will finish all this within three years. We have excellent cadres in the public sector companies. These cadres have unmatched expertise and excellence. With this freedom which is necessary, we might, God willing, achieve this objective.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Nobody contests that developing the public sector and liberalizing its administrations are both important and essential. But the other side of the problem is that the public sector production, particularly the industrial one, depends on intermediary materials requiring foreign currency. Can the government emphasize that the money market is now capable of supplying the foreign currency needed for production?

[Sidqi] By this you are raising a point that might not be directly connected with the public sector, but with the economic reform as a whole. A basic part of our economic reform policy is to depend as much as possible on ourselves to provide two elements. One is the intermediary materials and the second is promoting the process of manufacturing capital goods in Egypt (various equipment and tools of production).

Thus, we will manage to reduce our dependence on imports except for part of the intermediary goods, particularly the delicate or unusual ones which cannot be produced locally due to the intricate technology involved in their manufacture.

We have actually started to manufacture equipment in certain sectors such as electricity and petroleum. Previously, we used to import all electricity components, from towers to insulators and everything else. Now we have started to produce all this in Egypt, using Egyptian materials.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Are there specific studies confirming that we can replace imported intermediary materials by locally produced ones and that we can meet the needs of industrial growth by expanding the production equipment industry?

[Sidqi] We have such studies and we have a full list of all capabilities which exist in many areas such as oil, electricity, and ship building. We are also in the process of setting up a special steel plant. This special steel is used to manufacture production equipment. We have embarked on the necessary measures to set up the plant and building has started. Therefore, we expect demand for hard currencies in the money market to subside.

Actually, we import by about $10 billion annually. A third of this sum goes on intermediary goods, another third on investment commodities, and the last third on foodstuffs. It would be a major accomplishment if we can, within four or five years, provide half of that third which goes on intermediary goods. There should also be an increase in the local production of food commodities, particularly the big ones such as cooking oil, wheat, flour, and sugar, which consume the major part of hard currency revenues.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Much is being said these days about achieving a large percentage of self-sufficiency in the wheat crop.

[Sidqi] We have to know the facts and then see what we can do. Firstly, wheat is a strategic, indispensable staple. Secondly, farmers used to avoid growing wheat as other crops brought them better income. However, in the course of our heading toward economic freedom as a whole, we had to raise the price of wheat in a bid to encourage farmers to again grow it. We raised its price once and twice and for a third time this year. Therefore, we expect an increase in the areas cultivated with wheat.

There is also a huge project to grow wheat on the western coast, in addition to another project being carried out in coordination with some Arab brothers, particularly Kuwait, to cultivate a huge area of Sinai (400,000 feddans) with wheat.

We are now 37 percent self-sufficient in wheat, but our targeted percentage is 60 percent within four or five years.

The problem facing us is that wheat is competing with cotton and there is an escape from growing cotton to wheat and an escape from wheat to other crops. This escape from cotton is a major problem because cotton is still a basic source of a raw material constituting the backbone of our main national industry, that is, textiles. It is also a main source of foreign currency. This has been a major problem facing us over the past few years. Therefore, we use the pricing policy and try to give the peasant a suitable price close to the world price with the aim of gradually reaching the world price.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Do you have a timetable for attaining the world price?

[Sidqi] There is such a program for cotton. In 1992-93 the price of cotton will have attained 66 percent of the world price. Two or three years later we will reach the world price. As for wheat, its price now is close to the world price. And because the areas suitable for the cultivation of wheat and cotton in Egypt are still limited, we cannot but reclaim more land in order to have sufficient areas for cultivating cotton and wheat.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Back to our first subject, what economic indicators made you place the mixed sector companies on the top of the list for transferring to the private sector?

[Sidqi] The state's contribution to the mixed sector companies amounts to about $2.6 billion, equivalent to 54 percent of the capital of the mixed companies, whose number is 245. The state's contribution to many of these companies such as the Maritime Transportation, al-'Amiriyah, and al-Dakhilah Companies amounts to 90 percent or more. As for joint ventures, the reform policy is based on increasing the contribution of private capital in them because the main purpose is to circulate revenues. These are shares which could be sold and their revenues reinvested in other activities or in supporting the exisisting economic activities so that we can increase the private sector's participation in these companies.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How will this be achieved? Will you sell stocks and what rules govern the sale?

[Sidqi] There are several ways. What is most important is to increase the capital by allowing those working in projects to participate in them or by increasing private capital contribution.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] There are two difficulties. The first is related to the fact that some of these companies are losing.

[Sidqi] The losing ones should firstly be rectified. We have about 71 losing out of 245 companies. This means two thirds of them are successful. Some have made really splendid success. Last year the number of losing companies was 86. Their number dropped to 71 this year. Al-'Amiriyah Textiles Company began to make a profit after it was faltering. Much of this success was due to the change of administration. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Mr. Prime Minister, the IMF delegation concluded its mission a few days ago and left without our knowing what exactly happened. Is there a chance for agreement, or are the differences in views between Egypt and the IMF still very wide?

[Sidqi] First, I would like to stress certain important facts:

1. Egypt is interested in reaching agreement with the IMF and in reaching agreement on the letter of intent. We and the IMF are doing the best we can to conclude this agreement, which I think will be finalized before June or July at most.

2. We understand well the position of the IMF and the World Bank and we appreciate their effort to reach

agreement. In our recent talks with the World Bank mission, we perceived a sense of constructive cooperation that enabled us to reach complete understanding. We also sensed a positive attitude in the recent IMF mission. The statements the head of the World Bank mission made upon his return were constructive. They confirmed that the Bank is convinced of the seriousness of Egypt's steps for economic reform.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] May we know some of the aspects of the agreement reached with the World Bank mission?

[Sidqi] First of all, the agreement determines the general framework for the liberalization of the public sector for one specific goal; that is, to be able to continue and grow on its own within the framework of fair competition with the private sector.

I believe the Egyptian program to liberalize the administration of the public sector, which we have been talking about for a long time, will guarantee that the public sector will function more efficiently. It could attain self-sufficiency in three years at the most.

We must not forget that the public sector's problems in the industrial area are limited in number. The major problem is agriculture, 90 percent of which is owned by the private sector.

I believe various experiences have taught us that neither orders and coercion nor compulsory sales [of crops to the government] will make the Egyptian peasant grow crops that he knows will not give him a good profit.

As I have said, peasants used to avoid growing wheat. However, when we raised the price, they all began to grow wheat. They now avoid growing cotton, but we are serious about raising the price of cotton to make it reach the world price. If we do not do this, the difference between the estimated and the actual planted areas will be great.

I also think that the framework for the agreement with the World Bank is linked to energy. They believe that the price of energy in Egypt is low in comparison with world prices, and, therefore, any loans to finance power generating stations must be repaid from what this energy may yield.

We have been arguing for some time now with the World Bank over the price of energy in Egypt, which is around 30 percent of the world price, despite the fact that the price of petroleum products and energy has been adjusted more than once—in 1986, 1987, and 1989. We insisted that we would reach the world price gradually until 1995, when, by then, the structure of energy prices will be adjusted.

We also insisted that we must agree on a clear and precise definition of the meaning of a world energy price. Does this mean we should raise the price up to that in New York, Paris, or London? The cost of living in Egypt is not that high. Therefore, we agreed that the world price means Egypt's price for export without including the cost of transportation.

Those are the basic points of the agreement with the World Bank.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Why did you not sign a final agreement with the World Bank as there was agreement on all the principles?

[Sidqi] Before 1988, the World Bank had the right to reach an agreement with any country without waiting for one between the particular country and the IMF. But a new development occurred in May 1988. This development links any agreement with the World Bank with an agreement with the IMF. The World Bank and the IMF decided to conclude joint agreements with recipient countries.

Following his visit to Egypt, the head of the IMF delegation spoke positively in Paris about Egypt's economy and its achievements through the economic reform program. Thus, we reached agreement with the IMF to enable the World Bank to meet its commitments.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What did the latest IMF mission do, and is there any possibility of agreement?

[Sidqi] The brief of the IMF's technical delegation was to study the impact of our agreement with the World Bank on issues of interest to the IMF, which is mainly interested in three basic things: the exchange rate, the interest rate, and the general budget deficit.

These are the topics that are under discussion. The latest meeting was a technical one, and I did not attend it. But I read and follow the minutes of every session. I can state that the IMF delegation left Cairo convinced of our clear position on the economic reform process.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Can we say that agreement on these three points is possible?

[Sidqi] They want the interest rate to be at least on a par with the inflation rate.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] That is their position, but what is important is reaching an agreement setting the inflation rate.

[Sidqi] We told them that the inflation rate is 14-20 percent at most and the interest rate in Egypt is 16 percent plus taxes, which amount to about 8 percent because the bank's interest rates are tax-exempt. But they say that the inflation rate is more that 20 percent and that the interest rates should rise in proportion to the inflation rate.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Can we work out an average price?

[Sidqi] I believe agreement is possible. Raising the interest rate may negatively affect investment, but the interest rate can be raised at percentages that vary according to the term of the deposit.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How much is the interest rate for money deposited for less than a year?

[Sidqi] Eleven percent plus the tax exemption. Here we can raise the interest rate by one percent.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How much is the interest rate for money deposited for three years?

[Sidqi] Sixteen percent plus the tax exemption. Here we can raise the interest rate in relative terms.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What about the exchange rate?

[Sidqi] They want us to change the exchange rate annually in accordance with the inflation rate. We say this is impossible because it will conflict with our welfare. They also say exports will increase if the exchange rate increases in accordance with the inflation rate. But our export rates are nearly frozen, and we have no export capacity. This will affect our exports because the intermediary and imported food commodities are high ($6 billion a year).

We have come up with a compromise solution. Instead of using the inflation rate as a factor affecting the exchange rate, we can use the annual average wage increase ranging from 10 to 12 percent. This is an acceptable percentage.

We also demanded that the exchange rate be changed in accordance with foreign currency prices. If the prices increase, the exchange rate will increase, and if they go down, the exchange rate will go down. Jut as they accept the rise in the exchange rate, they also should accept the drop in the exchange rate against the dollar.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What next? Will there be another round of talks?

[Sidqi] Drs. Salah Hamid and 'Atif 'Ubayd are to go on an exploratory mission and attend meetings of governors of the World Bank and the IMF. There will then be an official round of talks on 20 or 21 May.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Will they be coming here?

[Sidqi] We will go to them, I think, although we would rather if they came here. But they prefer an exchange of visits as an economy measure.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How do you see the eventual outcome? Have you a concept of how things will turn out?

[Sidqi] I am optimistic.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] When do you expect an agreement to be reached?

[Sidqi] Not before June or August.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Do you think, though, that it will be possible now to iron out differences?

[Sidqi] I hope my optimism will prove justified. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are the general features of the budget? There is a widespread belief the prices of some commodities will go up, especially given that cigarette prices were recently increased.

[Sidqi] The budget deficit is one of Egypt's most pressing problems. The overall deficit is in the region of 10 billion Egyptian pounds; it is being redressed by real state finances. The trouble is that the general budget deficit is responsible for many of Egypt's problems, led by inflation.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is the rate of inflation?

[Sidqi] It is variously estimated at 20, 26, and 30 percent. I would put it at between 17 and 24 percent. But how are resources secured? It is possible to cut expenses, and these are either social or in the form of debt servicing, and military outlays. We have squeezed these expenses to the limit. Salaries and wages in the government sector amount to 7 or 8 billion Egyptian pounds.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] And the public sector?

[Sidqi] Roughly the same figure.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How much do services receive?

[Sidqi] Upward of 1 billion pounds is spent on education, and as much on health.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are the gross expenses?

[Sidqi] Approximately 30 billion pounds.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How do you bridge the gap?

[Sidqi] By the occasional levying of more taxes and fees.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What commodities are likely to be affected?

[Sidqi] None, apart from the recent 15 percent rise in cigarette prices.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How much revenue will this bring in?

[Sidqi] Some 300 to 400 million pounds. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Mr. Prime Minister, bread prices went up a couple of days ago. Will there be another price hike in the next budget?

[Sidqi] We raised the price of flour because we raised the price of purchased wheat to approximately 520 pounds per tonne and the price of flour stayed at 250 pounds per tonne. This led to the spread of a black market where a kg of flour was sold for 150 piasters. Thus, it was inevitable that the situation be rectified. This has nothing to do with the price of the loaf, however. We think there is no room for raising it further, although it costs us 11 piasters and three mills. This means that every loaf of bread is subsidized by six piasters and three mills. The loaf price will see no increase and will not be affected by the rise in the flour prices.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] But that will create the problem of the peasants buying bread rather than making their own.

[Sidqi] Some peasants used to sell their wheat crop when the price of the tonne fetched 520 pounds and then buy flour at 240 pounds per tonne.

I think the peasants will retain for themselves a portion of the wheat for their own domestic consumption rather than sell all of it hoping to buy flour at half the price.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How much is the subsidy?

[Sidqi] It is close to 2 billion pounds. If it can be fixed, this would be good. However, the prices of many imported commodities have increased. For example, the prices of some of the cooking oil and sugar imports have increased by 65 percent. So, is it right to imagine that prices are to continue to be the same without any increase? The people themselves cannot accept such a situation, because if this situation is not rectified, a collapse will occur. Some people say it is the World Bank and the IMF that are demanding this. That is not true. We are tackling problems that have accumulated and a longstanding malfunction. Sometimes it happens that our way of dealing with these problems is in agreement with the views of the IMF or the World Bank. This is natural because the IMF and the World Bank have views on reforming the economies of countries—Egypt as well as other nations. However, what we are doing is necessary for the process of reform in Egypt. The people must realize that. What we can do today may not be possible tomorrow. If circumstances remain the same, matters will be difficult and more costly in the years to come. What is important is to carry out the reforms without placing huge burdens on low-income people. The rich must take part in that. The current situation in Egypt is the result of our reluctance over the past 35 years to carry out reforms. We have feared the "monster" which we have seen becoming larger. Had we adapted ourselves to the world trend since the adoption of the open-door policy in 1974, we would not be facing the current situation. Today we are talking about reforming the public sector, but we should have prepared the public sector for competition since we allowed a greater role by the private sector, because neither the public sector nor the private sector can avoid economic laws. When the door was closed in favor of the public sector, it managed to work, but when it was involved in domestic, import, and export competition, it faced trouble. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How does the Government view the recent incidents of sectarian sedition? What can be done to avoid it? What are matter like now in Egypt?

[Sidqi] Indeed, what has happened over the past three months in al-Minya, Bani Suwayf, Asyut, and al-Fayyum has been painful, regardless of who started it and irrespective of the reaction. Throughout its history, Egypt—Christians and Muslims—has never witnessed such abnormal occurrences. Things have been calm for a while except for individual incidents. However, the incidents that took place in al-Minya in particular and then in al-Fayyum are unacceptable incidents carried out by narrow minded people unable to understand the pillars of Egypt. In Egypt, Muslims and Copts enjoy constant amity. What is most dangerous is that these incidents seem to be fabricated. They are not natural incidents. In al-Fayyum, they said a man assailed a girl. If someone is mistaken, he is taken to account through the law. But what happened was that some people exploited the incident in a manner that has led us to the current situation, which concerns every one of us, because we have friends of all religions and all creeds. Throughout its history, Egyptian society has been a humane one.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Does the matter require additional firmness against those people, such as changing the law so that someone who attacks religious sites can be subject to more severe punishment?

[Sidqi] The law does not permit such acts, nor do our morality, habits, and traditions. An observer of these incidents should be able to see that these incidents are fabricated. This means that there are forces instigating such incidents. The dangerous thing about this is that these forces are ill-intentioned. Where do they want to lead us?

This is what leads to the intervention of security forces and police whenever such incidents take place. The intervention of security forces is a problem in itself. The Egyptian regime is very capable of confronting these problems very firmly and very strongly. However, we hope there will be more public awareness and that matters will not reach this extent. As I said, all these matters seem to be fabricated and preplanned. However, the government's position is clear: uncompromising firmness. Meanwhile, we meet with both sides all the time. In fact, older people on both sides—Muslims and Christians—are very wise. If you talk with any of them, you will hear from them what you heard from me: No one accepts what is taking place.

Gasoline Prices To Increase 6 May

NC0605114290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2249 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Gasoline prices are to go up by 15 piasters per liter as of 6 May, a responsible source at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources announced tonight.

The price of one liter of the super 90 gasoline will now be 55 piasters and a liter of regular gasoline will cost 50 piasters.

Agricultural Research Agreement With USSR

NC0605093990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, met today with Professor Shiskov, president of the V.I. Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences [title as received]. Dr. Wali stated that the Egyptian Government wishes to promote constructive cooperation with the USSR in the various spheres of agricultural production.

He said that the current policy of international detente bolsters international cooperation in the sphere of agricultural and food production and encourages the largest possible investment in this vital field.

Dr. Wali and Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Zhuravlev today attended the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Agricultural Ministry's agricultural research center and the V.I. Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences. The agreement, which was signed by Dr. Ahmad Mumtaz, the agricultural research center's president, and Professor Shiskov, provides for cooperation in the fields of plant breeding, agricultural industries, genetic engineering, pest control, and protection of livestock.

The implementation of the agreement's first stage will include visits by agricultural scientists, the exchange of agricultural research results, joint training programs, and the exchange of genetic material used in producing various new high-yield crops.

Libya

Further on Chemical Weapons Allegations

Sabha Facility Cited

LD0505184890 Hamburg DPA in German 1755 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—Libyan revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi intends, according to a report in DER SPIEGEL, to create the conditions for the production of chemical weapons in a different place, following the fire in the poison gas factory in al-Rabitah. This emerges from reports of Western secret services. The plans for the new project at the Sabha military base correspond "in essential details" to the plant in al-Rabitah.

According to a confidential report, which DER SPIEGEL says is in the hands of the Chancellor's Office, once again at least one West German firm is in on the project. The Thyssen Company is to supply hydraulic hoists, the report says, according to DER SPIEGEL. Plans for the new poison gas plant are apparently already far advanced. The secret services report that in Sabha there is already a factory for the production of napalm, which is used in fire bombs.

'Official Source' Denies Report

LD0605150990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 6 May (JANA)—An official source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation categorically denied news disseminated by mass media in West Germany regarding the existence of a new factory for the production of chemical weapons in the Great Jamahiriyah. It said that there is no truth whatsoever in the existence of a new or an old factory.

The source stressed, in the course of its reply to a question from JANA, the previous firm Libyan Arab stand concerning this issue. It warned that such allegations could not be separated from the hostile campaign waged by circles hostile to the Arab nation and its technological and scientific progress.

The source recalled, in this context, the campaign that sisterly Iraq and other Arab countries, beside the Great Jamahiriyah, are facing for no reason apart from the fact that these countries have decided to rely on themselves by producing the necessary things for the life of any person.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks to Crete Conference

LD0505224690

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Television Service in Arabic at 2015 GMT on 5 May following its regular newcast carries a 40-minute recording of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's speech to the conference "For Peace in the Mediterranean" being held in Crete. Al-Qadhdhafi delivered the speech via satellite.

Al-Qadhdhafi begins by welcoming the conferees and stresses the importance of such a conference. He points to the interest of Libya in peace in the region given its own experience with colonial powers since the dawn of history; this experience culminated in the U.S. raid against his own house and children. He reiterates Libya's desire for peace if foreign fleets withdraw from the region.

Al-Qadhdhafi reaffirms Libya's sovereignty over the Gulf of Sidra, in accordance with international law which gives special status to historic gulfs and he stresses the right of free navigation for civilian and commerical fleets. He praises Gorbachev's proposals to withdraw the Soviet fleet from the Mediterranean if the U.S. agrees to withdraw hers; he calls upon the conference to support Gorbachev's suggestion. He calls upon Mediterranean people to expel foreign fleets, emphasizes that the U.S. fleet is a threat to peace and security in the region, and points to U.S.-Israeli military cooperation and nuclear threat to the peoples of the Mediterranean, given Israel's nuclear capabilities.

Al-Qadhdhafi recalls the U.S. raid on Tripoli and Benghazi, stressing the Libyan strike against the Italian island of Lampeduza and warning that the battle between U.S. and Libyan troops could have been fought in European land had the conflict escalated because of the U.S. military bases from Europe. He salutes the Greek people's determination to end the U.S. military presence from their country and calls upon the rest of Europe to follow suit.

Al-Qadhdhafi dwells upon Libya's right for war retributions from Italy by referring to his usual reasoning that since Jews can claim retribution why not Libyans.

Al-Qadhdhafi stresses the need to give an alternative homeland for the Jews, like Alsace-Lorraine, Alaska, or a piece of land in the Balkans. Allowing the Jews to settle in Palestine is not a solution; it will only exacerbate their

plight, he says. They should be given the right to leave Israel and go back to their countries of origin. Israel should be dismantled like everything else that was an outcome of World War II.

Al-Qadhdhafi says the Palestinians are carrying out what is termed by some people as terrorism because of their plight: "Those hostages held in the Middle East, I have repeatedly called for their release. The organizations holding them have told me that they are being held because of the occupation of Palestine. Had the Jews not be been in Palestine, the U.S. would have never intervened nor would a war would have taken place in Lebanon, in Syria, or Egypt. Nor would the Palestinian have felt obliged to spread terror or the extermist muslim organizations—which cooperate with the Palestinians in Lebanon today—to detain those hostages. I told them they are [holding] innocent hostages who had nothing to do with political matters. They agreed but that they are citizens of countries which are greatly and dangerously involved in the Palestine problem. Those countries give nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons to the Israeli entity."

Al-Qadhdhafi goes on to urge the dismantling of NATO and points out that the United States cannot even solve its own problems like unemployment and the AIDS epidemic. He praises the Green Book and affirms the Libyan people's desire to turn a new leaf with the Italian, British and U.S. people if they withdraw, but he does not specify from what. America should draw lessons from the past, he says.

Al-Qadhdhafi praises the conference and asserts that his country will use its material and financial resources to carry out the conference resolution on peace in the Mediterranean.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Trade Union Officials

LD0605151890 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Within the framework of his continuous instigating role to deepen and entrench people's power, the brother leader this morning met secretariats of the trade union federations at the level of the Great Jamahiriyah.

During this encounter, the brother leader of the revolution explained the way the people's committees will be built and the infeudation of these sectors in the reconstruction of people's committees for the founding of People's Jamahiriyah.

At the beginning of the encounter, the brother leader of the revolution said: The reason we are meeting with this number of trade unions' general congresses is the declaration in which we recalled that the people's jamahiriyah is starting from now on, considering the jamahiriyah in the last 20 years, or the fifteen years since 1977 was an official jamahiriyah if one cay say so, despite the fact that there was no government, appointments, or parliament that ruled affairs in lieu of the masses, nor was there any kind of oppression, repression, or falsification, given that parliaments are a falsification of the will of peoples and that parties abort democracy, and that all of them are instruments of tyranny against the masses.

The brother of the revolution affirmed in this encounter that from now on, self-management must begin in all sectors of the jamahiri society by the masses belonging to these sectors. There must be real trade union congresses, with files and membership cards, and the election of the secretariats of the trade union congresses must be genuine, democratic, and free. All sections of this sector must belong these congresses, and they must not feel any frustration or that their views are discarded.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed: We must further deepen the people's power, and live any doubt over our trends toward people's power. From now on, he said, there will be meetings with the masses for all questions to be asked, and for elections to begin in a democratic, free, and direct way by the traders themselves so that people's committees may be set up in a direct manner, and so that afterward we feel that we are managing ourselves.

This encounter was attended by the brothers the secretary and members of the General People's Congress, the secretary and members of the General People's Committee, and a number of secretaries of peoples congresses in the municipality of Tripoli.

Libyan Arab Chadian Commission To Meet

LD0605162190 Tripoli JANA in English 1452 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Ma' 6 [6 May] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA learnt that the Libyan Arab Chadian Mixed Commission is to hold its 5th meeting in Tripoli on the 15th instant.

The meetings of the commission will be chaired by the secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and the Chadian foreign minister.

Mauritania

Gambian Minister Delivers Jawara Message

AB0505192790 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, this morning, received Gambian Foreign Minister Omar Sey, who brought him a personal message from Gambian Leader Dawda Jawara, current chairman of the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS. After the meeting, the emissary told newsmen that the message is relating to the next ECOWAS summit to be held in Banjul on 28 and 29 May. He also stated that he took this opportunity to discuss issues of common interest and affecting the subregion.

Also present at the meeting was Foreign Affairs Minister Hasni Ould Didi, who saw Omar Sey off in Noukachott late this morning.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Says Rebel Conspiracy 'Leftist Move'

EA0405192490 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 3 May (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council [Lieutenant] General 'Umar al-Bashir said Wednesday [2 May] that the abortive coup if succeeded would be a setback for Sudan, as the (?plotters) wanted to return the country to the era of partisanship and sedition.

Speaking to the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of al-Shajarah military area [in Khartoum] here yesterday, Gen. al-Bashir added that the defeated conspiracy was a leftist move.

He noted that the plotters claimed that the revolution was backed by [a] certain circle, in a bid to weaken it domestically and abroad.

Gen. al-Bashir said the rebellion movement rejected all initiatives presented by the revolution, adding that the movement was a cat's-paw for foreign troops.

He explained that the formation of the popular defence forces has realised the people's slogan of "one army-one people."

Gen. al-Bashir added that the revolution's enemies had attempted by all means to impede Sudan's relations with its neighbouring countries.

He reviewed the current economic situation, saying that the Sudanese economy is improving.

'Umar Al-Bashir Issues Decree on Cooperatives

EA0505112390 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 90

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] In terms of policies, administrative, and organizational conditions which are reflected in [word indistinct] their performance and inhibits their basic role in promoting production and services so that they constitute a marginal factor restricted to the distribution of consumer goods and only a limited participation in production and services. The revolution is also aware of what has afflicted the organizations of the cooperative sector with its cooperative societies, unions, and organizations in terms of laziness so that most of them do not hold their general meetings, nor do their boards of directors (?meet). Moreover, their accounts have not been audited for long periods of time, thus violating the Cooperatives Law and related legislation, and being in violation of their internal regulations [words indistinct].

It has become obvious to all that certain incorrect practices exist, such as imaginary cooperatives, double membership, and the practice of administrative and financial irregularities which the committee investigating the imaginary cooperatives, chaired by Captain Awad, has discovered. In view of everything that has happened and by virtue of the National Salvation Revolution's keenness to correct the course of this sector, the following has been decided:

One: to amend the Cooperatives Law in a manner which will (?serve) stability together with bringing about economic and social changes and promoting self-reliant cooperative work.

Two: to dissolve the board of directors of the National Cooperatives Union and form a steering committee to undertake the tasks ascribed to the committee by law.

Three: to dissolve both the nominal and factional boards of directors of the central cooperative organizations. The chairman of the Revolution Command Council Economic Committee shall form steering committees for these organizations in consultation with the minister of trade and shall supervise them.

Four: to dissolve the boards of directors of the regional cooperative unions and form steering committees at regional levels, whose membership shall be established in consultation between the steering committee of the national cooperative union and the regional governors.

Five: to dissolve finally the boards of directors of the provincial cooperative unions, with their funds and property being handed over to the regional unions.

Six: to dissolve the boards of directors of the local unions; steering committees will be formed for them at local level, to be appointed in consultation with the steering committees of the regional unions, and the relevant deputy governor and economic affairs delegate to the national capital.

Seven: the primary cooperative unions will continue to exist until area steering committees are formed for them. They will then be dissolved by order of the registrar general of cooperative societies under the law and the new regulations.

Eight: all the dissolved boards of directors at all levels must surrender the funds and property of these unions to the steering committees within a period not to exceed 15 days from the date of the formation of the committees.

Nine: the minister of trade, cooperation, and supply is to implement this decree. [Dated] Issued under my signature on 8 Shawwal 1410 A.H., corresponding to 3 May 1990: [Signed] 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

Al-Bashir Orders Two Doctors' Release

EA0505221590 Khartoum SUNA in English 0945 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 5 May (SUNA)—The RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman, General 'Umar al-Bashir, has decreed the release of Dr. Ma'mum Muhammad Husayn and Dr. Sayyid Muhammad 'Abdullah, who were arrested following [the] doctors' strike staged last November.

The move came after a request in this connection presented by [the] doctors' steering committee to the RCC chairman.

Dr. Husayn was condemned to death, while Dr. 'Abdullah was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

Khalifah Explains 'Truth' About Coup Attempt

EA0605163490 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Kassala 6 May (SUNA)—Revolution Command Council [RCC] Deputy Chairman and Political Supervisor of the Eastern Region Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has stressed that the firmness and decisiveness with which the revolution dealt with the plotters in the recent coup attempt was necessary to fend off sedition, for "sedition is worse than killing" [quotation from Koran]. At a mass public rally here yesterday, he stated that the (?attempt) was aimed at the oppressed among the sons of the Sudanese people. He described it as a rebellion against people's (?consent] and an act of treason. He (?appealed) to the popular committees and executive leaderships in the region to unite [word indistinct] and to shun disputes. Col. Khalifah, who was accompanied by Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, RCC member and Central Region governor, was visiting the Eastern Region [word indistinct] in order to explain and clarify the truth about the coup attempt, which occurred at the end of (?last) month.

Rebels Say Six More Officers Executed

EA0405191990 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The National Islamic Front [NIF] junta announced yesterday the formation of a high ministerial committee to explain the reason of the recent alleged coup attempt and to combat what it called rumours. The junta's decision follows its internal and external isolation. In the latest wave of the junta's campaign against its opponents, six more army officers have been executed in Khartoum in connection with their part in the recent coup attempt.

Meanwhile, the junta has deployed NIF spies disguised as members of Amn al-Sudan, the Sudan Security, in the (?towns) of Damazin, Wau, Juba, Malakal, Kaduqli, Nyala, Fashir, Atbarah, and in the national capital. The spies have the mission to recommend to the junta those to be pensioned or arrested from among the Sudanese army and police.

Cooperation Accords With Algeria, PDRY Ratified

EA0505101490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] At its ordinary session today, chaired by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council chairman and prime minister, the Council of Ministers ratified the agreement on establishing a joint committee for economic, technical, and cultural cooperation between the Sudan and the democratic and popular Republic of Algeria.

(Ustadh Muhammad Khawjali Salihin), culture and information minister and the government's official spokesman, said the council had ratified the draft bill on the economic, technical, trade, scientific, and cultural cooperation agreement between the Sudan and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] for 1989.

His excellency added that the meeting had also ratified the draft bill on specifications and standards for the year 1989, which was presented by the minister of industry. (Ustadh Salihin) said that the bill represented [word indistinct] for the method by which the limited specifications could be established and reliance on them in all fields.

Popular Delegation Departs for Iraq

EA0605165890 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 6 May (SUNA)—The deputy commissioner of the national capital Colonel Yusuf 'Abd al-Fattah, leading a popular delegation, left here yesterday for Baghdad on a seven-day visit to Iraq, to show support for that Arab country which faces a hostile mass media campaign by Zionist circles and some Western countries. The delegation comprises representatives of the popular committee in the national capital and the regions and the members of the national dialogue conference on peace.

New English-Language Newspaper Launched

EA0505120590 Khartoum SUNA in French 0910 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Khartoum 4 May (SUNA)—The Sudanese publishing house yesterday celebrated at the Frienship Palace the publication of the first issue of the Sudanese English-language weekly "NEW HORIZON". In a

speech at the beginning of the ceremonies, Mr. Matthew Abor, the chairman and managing director of the publishing house, affirmed the importance of publishing-newspapers in English, which facilitated contacts with a considerable number of readers. [word indistinct] the minister of culture and information, Mr. Muhammad Khawjali al-Salihin, expressed his hope that the new newspaper will be published daily in the near future, making allusions to the hostile campaign carried out by the Western mass media and the need for able organs to counter this campaign.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Decrees Local Elections for 10 Jun

LD0505203690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] During his meeting this morning with Prime Minister Hamed Karoui in the Palace of the Republic in Carthage, President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali signed two decrees calling on electors to participate in municipal elections on Sunday 10 June 1990, while the second decree concerns defining electoral constituencies, which number 260.

Kuwait

Former MP's To Boycott Council Elections

NC0505181290 Paris AFP in English 1728 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 5 (AFP)—Twenty-six former Kuwait MPs announced Saturday they would boycott elections for a national council to be held on June 10, a communique released here said.

The legislators voiced regret over the announcement last month by Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah for the creation of a provisional 75-member national council.

Fifty of the council's members would be elected and 25 appointed by the emir. The council would have a temporary four-year mandate and meet behind closed doors, according to Shaykh Jabir.

The MPs led by former speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun have dubbed the proposed council "anti-constitutional" and reiterated demands that parliament be fully restored after a four-year suspension.

Kuwait's parliament was suspended in 1986 after the government charged that deputies, who often opposed legislation proposed by the cabinet, had abused democracy.

On Thursday, the Interior Ministry said that 259 candidates were already in the running with May 9 as the cutoff date for submission of candidacies.

United Arab Emirates

Joint Committee Meeting With South Yemen Ends

JN0605185890 Manama WAKH in English 1625 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 6 (GNA)—The UAE [United Arab Emirates] and South Yemen affirmed the necessity of convening an emergency Arab summit meeting as early as possible to confront the challenges faced by the Arab nation and Arab national security.

At the end of the joint UAE-South Yemen committee's second session here today co-chaired by the two countries' foreign ministers, Rashid 'Abdallah (UAE) and 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali (South Yemen), both sides stressed the necessity of sound planning and preparation as well as participation by all Arab states in order to achieve the aspired outcome.

The UAE expressed satisfaction over the unification steps between North and South Yemen and hoped that the unity would materialise in the near future.

The two sides agreed to further boost cooperation between them in all fields and to prepare a draft agreement for economic cooperation.

They also discussed a number of new projects suggested by the South Yemeni side and the possibility of UAE participation in financing them.

Both sides agreed on exchanging visits by economic and trade delegations.

Al-Dali praised the outcome of the joint committee's meeting, expressing satisfaction over the results it achieved.

He told EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY that a number of Arab issues, especially the Palestinian developments and the contacts currently underway for the convening of an emergency Arab summit, were also reviewed during the meeting.

Al-Dali and his accompanying delegation left for home later in the day after concluding a four-day visit to the UAE during which he delivered a message to President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan from South Yemeni President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

Yemen Arab Republic

Minutes for Prime Ministers' Unity Meeting

JN0405160190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 May 90

[Excerpts] The two prime ministers concluded their meeting this morning at the Prime Ministry in the unity capital, Sanaa, in the presence of a number of officials in the united Yemeni homeland. Beginning the meeting, brothers Engineer 'Abdallah al-Kurshumi, minister of public works and transportation, and Salih 'Abdallah al-Muthanna, minister of transport, signed the minutes of the meeting concerning a merger of transportation institutions. Brothers Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of telecommunications and member of the General Committee, and Salih 'Abdallah al-Muthanna signed the minutes of the meetings between the ministers of telecommunications and transport.

Afterward, the minutes of the joint meeting between the two prime ministers was read. Brothers 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and General Committee member, and Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and prime minister, then signed the minutes. Following is the text:

In continuation of the first historic meeting of the Yemeni homeland's leadership in the unity capital, Sanaa, on 17-19 April 1990, the results and decisions of which gave an important qualitative push on various levels to a hastening of the declaration of the long-awaited unity day, which goes along with the unity hopes and aspirations of our Yemeni people, and in continuation of the unity meetings on all levels ushered in by the historic Aden agreement of 30 November 1989 as a marker for the beginning of contemporary Yemeni history, brothers 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the General Committee of the

General People's Congress, and Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, prime minister and member of the Yemeni Socialist Party's Political Bureau, met in Sanaa 1-4 May 1990.

During this meeting, they studied and discussed the executive measures and preparations to finalize the urgent tasks of the transformation stage and declare the unity state with the participation of a number of officials in the united Yemeni homeland.
Agreement was reached on the following:
1. Currency

Since currency is an expression of the state's national sovereignty, total agreement has been reached to organize the currency of the unity state to guarantee the protection of the Yemeni Republic's national economy and the interests of citizens, individuals, and public institutions and companies. Based on this broad national base, agreement has been reached to organize the future of the national currency. Proceeding from this, agreement has been reached to consider the rial and dinar the currency of the united homeland that can circulate in both parts of the homeland as of the date of this document. In accordance with this, the two currencies become legal tender in all parts of the Yemeni homeland at the rate of 26 rials to one dinar.

This agreement also means the two currencies will be used at the specified exchange rate in all trade and banking transactions and as a means of payments to citizens. To organize action according to this, the Bank of Yemen and the Yemeni Central Bank have been entrusted with taking the necessary practical steps to guarantee implementation. Stemming from this agreement, the meeting made its decisions concerning the monetary policy of the unity state and organizing its national currency.
2. The Budget

The two finance ministers are charged with discussing and preparing the unity state's budget from the declaration until the end of the year, on condition these discussions and preparations are finalized by 20 May.
3. Transportation and Communications

Approval of both minutes of the meeting signed by the ministers of transport and public works and transportation regarding the two airlines and the two communications authorities. The two minutes will be considered the basis for merging the two airlines and the communications authorities.
4. Civil and Military Service
a. The ministers will conclude discussion of the laws on employee affairs and their employment situation according to organizational lists and structures by 15 May 1990, starting with the post of general director and below. The higher positions will be left up to the decision of the political leadership. The lists will be prepared in such a way as to absorb all employees in the existing institutions.
b. The ministers will set a schedule for the movement of workers from Aden to Sanaa and vice versa according to their qualifications, on condition the schedule for finalizing the move does not exceed six months at most, starting from the day the unity state is declared.
c. The general framework for the salary and wage scales given by the Ministries of Civil Service and Finance was approved. The civil service and finance ministers are charged with finalizing the details of the salary and wage scales no later than 15 May 1990.
d. In light of the prime ministers' decisions at the Ta'izz meeting to grant greater privileges to the ministerial branches in Aden—since it is the economic capital—to perform part of the duties of the central organs, ministerial offices will be set up with privileges determined by the cabinet of the unity state.
e. The files on the employment cadres will be reordered and moved to Sanaa, along with archives on all agreements, treaties, and commitments of the unity state, as well as others that will result. The ministers will be asked to define and prepare the move in the appropriate manner. As for the secret archive and similar documents, they will be sealed with red wax and kept in all branches of work centers that will be transferred to the unity state's capital. They must not be opened afterward except by decision of the unity state's cabinet in keeping with the need to use.
5. Travel and Residence

The committee entrusted with preparing ideas and presenting suggestions on the travel and residence of the leadership and administration cadres from Aden to the capital, Sanaa, and vice versa, presented a paper containing the general basics. The paper will be studied and a decision will made by the two prime ministers.
6. [No heading as heard] The ministers of justice and legal affairs will be entrusted with outlining the draft laws to be presented to parliament for approval during its first round, especially the laws concerning the declaration of the unity state. These draft laws will be submitted to the two prime ministers before 15 May 1990.
7. The Decisions of the Cabinets' Second Meeting

All the brother ministers and experts are asked to finish the work entrusted to them by the decisions of the second meeting of the two cabinets in Aden 20-22 March 1990, before 15 May 1990.

Issued in Sanaa on Friday, 9 Shawwal 1410 hegira, corresponding to 4 May 1990. [passage omitted]

Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, prime minister and Political Bureau member, left the capital of the state of unity at noon today after participating in the second meeting of the two prime ministers held 1-4 May. [passage omitted]

Salih Phones Husayn, Condemns 'Attempt' on Yacht

JN0605181090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Brother leader President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last night telephoned his brother, His Majesty King Husayn of fraternal Jordan. The president voiced our country's denunciation of the Zionist enemy troops'

attempt to attack the king's yacht in international waters in the Gulf of Aqaba. This, the president said, is a violation of international norms and laws and a clear provocation against the Arab nation. The brother leader and president stressed to his brother King Husayn our country's solidarity with Jordan and its support in defending Jordan's sovereignty and independence and confronting any aggression.

The president and King Husayn also discussed the efforts to convene an extraordinary Arab summit, which the state of Palestine called for in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, to discuss the Soviet Jewish immigration and the Zionist enemy's attempt to settle the immigrants in the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, as well as the threats against the Arab nation, particularly against fraternal Iraq.

Reportage on Iraqi-Turkish Joint Committee Talks

Prime Minister Akbulut Arrives

JN0505115990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut arrived in Baghdad today on a three-day official visit to Iraq. Yildirim Akbulut was accorded an official reception led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister. In a statement to INA, the Turkish prime minister said he was pleased to be visiting and described his country's relations with Iraq as very strong, historically and culturally. He also expressed the hope that the visit will help strengthen these relations.

The Turkish prime minister added that the Iraqi and Turkish sides, through the Iraqi-Turkish joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation, will discuss ways to develop these relations. Concluding his statement, Yildirim Akbulut declared he was confident the visit would produce positive and good results in developing cooperation between the two friendly countries.

'Official' Talks Begin

JN0605063990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—Official talks began here this evening between Iraq and Turkey.

The Iraqi side to the talks was led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and the Turkish side by Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut.

In a speech delivered at the outset of the talks, Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed the importance of the visit and of holding such high-level talks in laying strong foundations for a host of mutual interests between the two neighboring countries.

Ramadan stressed the importance of continuing to hold meetings at all levels between the two countries. He also emphasized the importance of communicating frank and clear stands at all meetings these stands can lay a solid groundwork for maintaining and developing ties of cooperation and friendship based on mutual trust and a desire to remove all obstacles that might stand in the way of bilateral cooperation and good neighborliness.

Ramadan referred to the eagerness of the [Ba'th] Party leadership and revolution to develop bilateral ties and their desire to find new areas for expanding these ties. He also underlined the Party leaderships's desire to create the proper climate for expanding the volume of bilateral cooperation in the interest of the two countries to help bolster stability in the region.

In a reply speech, the Turkish prime minister said his current visit to Iraq at the head of a large technical and economic delegation confirms Turkey's eagerness and desire to develop the existing ties with Iraq to build on the high level of cooperation attained during the last 10 years. He added: We are interested in and view as a priority task the issue of maintaining good neighborly ties with friendly Iraq to enhance bilateral cooperation and contribute to the realization of stability in the region as a whole.

Yildirim Akbulut affirmed his country's serious and sincere desire to work to surmount the difficulties that might emerge in bilateral ties. He also said his country is pursuing a policy based on clarity and frankness to help maintain and bolster the ties of cooperation in the interest of the two friendly countries.

During the talks, the two sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in all fields during the current and future phases.

The following attended on the Iraqi side: 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim, minister of oil and head of the Iraqi side to the Iraqi-Turkish joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation; under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture and Irrigation; other officials, and the Iraqi ambassador to Ankara. For Turkey, the head and members of the Turkish side to the joint committee meetings, and the Turkish ambassador to Baghdad attended.

Celebi, Hasan Confer

JN0605064290 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 5 INA—Minister of Industry and Military Industrialization Husayn Kamil Hasan met here today Turkish State Minister Isin Celebi.

During the meeting, both ministers discussed possible establishment of a joint industrial company and means of expanding bilateral industrial cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Iraqi and Turkish industry undersecretaries and the Turkish ambassador to Iraq.

Saddam, Akbulut Hold Meeting

JN0605115290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn this morning received Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and the delegation accompanying him.

Akbulut conveyed to his excellency the president leader the greetings of His Excellency President Turgut Ozal of the Republic of Turkey and his wishes of continued good health to his excellency the president and progress and prosperity to the Iraqi people. His excellency the president leader asked Akbulut to relay his greetings to Mr. Ozal and his best wishes of continued good health to Mr. Ozal and further progress and prosperity to the Turkish people.

During the meeting, they discussed ties between the two neighboring countries and ways to enhance bilateral

cooperation in various fields. They also discussed some international issues of common interest.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister; 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim, minister of oil; the Iraqi ambassador in Ankara; and the Turkish ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Cooperation Talks Resume

JN0605190090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] The Iraqi-Turkish joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation resumed its meeting in Baghdad today. Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim headed the Iraqi side, and Minister of State Isin Celebi led the Turkish side. During the meeting, which officials from the two countries attended, the sides discussed ways to promote relations between the countries.

Delegation Meets Speaker Salih

JN0605200590 Baghdad INA in English 1810 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 6, INA—Mr Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, met here today the Turkish Parliamentary delegation accompanying Turkish premier, currently on a visit to Iraq.

During the meeting, attended by chairman of Arab and foreign relations committee at the Iraqi National Assembly, Iraqi-Turkish parliamentary relations were reviewed and means of promoting them were discussed.

'Satisfaction' Expressed

JN0705093590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut, currently visiting Iraq. They expressed their satisfaction at the positive atmosphere that prevailed during talks between the Iraqi and Turkish sides and the measures and decisions adopted to reinforce cooperation ties between the two countries.

Reportage on Visit by King Husayn

Saddam Greets King on Arrival

JN0505150290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 5 May 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a visit to Iraq.

His majesty the king was accorded an official reception. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn led those welcoming the king on arrival. At the ramp of his majesty the king's private aircraft, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn hugged his brother the king, greeting him and congratulated him on his safe arrival. The president then shook hands with the members of his majesty the king's delegation: Prime Minister Mudar Badran; al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir, chief of the Royal Court; and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to his majesty the king. [passage omitted]

His excellency the president then accompanied his majesty the king in an official motorcade to the latter's place of residence, where he will stay as the valued guest of both the Iraqi Government and people.

Discuss Summit, 'Threats'

JN0505191090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn and his brother His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan held a round of official talks this evening. The talks concerned the extraordinary Arab summit due to be held in Baghdad, the threats recently posed to pan-Arab security, and how to confront these threats to safeguard the Arab nation's security and protect Arab rights, particularly the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The views of His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal were identical on all aspects of these issues. The talks also dealt with the strong ties between the two fraternal countries and with cooperation and coordination within the Arab Cooperation Council.

The following attended on the Iraqi side: Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization. The following attended for Jordan: Prime Minister Mudar Badran; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Court; and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to his majesty the king.

King Seen off by Saddam

JN0505191290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and his delegation left Baghdad this evening following a one-day visit to Iraq.

His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn led those who bade farewell to his majesty the king. Also on hand to see the king off were Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Husayn

Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization; the Iraqi ambassador in Amman; and the Jordanian ambassador to Baghdad.

At the ramp of the private aircraft of his majesty the king, His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn hugged his brother His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, bidding him farewell and wishing him a safe return home with God's care and protection.

King Husayn Ibn-Talal was accompanied by a delegation comprised of Prime Minister Mudar Badran; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Court; and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to his majesty the king.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Delegation Visit

Welcomed by 'Izzat Ibrahim

JN0605154090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, arrived in Baghdad today. He and his delegation were accorded an official reception at Baghdad airport. Upon arrival, his highness the Saudi crown prince was received by 'Izzat Ibrahim vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC); Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Shakir, member of the RCC; and Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister.

'Izzat Ibrahim said Prince 'Abdallah's visit to Iraq illustrates the depth of relations between the two fraternal countries at a time when the Arab nation is witnessing cultural and political progress, and when Arab relations also are witnessing a positive development in the interest of the nation's march. He also pointed out participants of the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Baghdad will discuss issues of interest to the Arab nation and its security at the current stage.

Meet With Saddam

JN0705063590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received this evening His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and his accompanying delegation.

The following attended: 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], and RCC members First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan; Tariq 'Aziz, foreign minister and deputy prime minister; Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi; Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim; and the Saudi ambassador to Baghdad.

The president and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz then held a round of talks during which they agreed on the importance of convening the Arab summit in Baghdad. They also agreed to coordinate issues to render the summit a success. In addition, they agreed on the importance of adhering to the OPEC decision on oil policies to prevent a collapse in oil prices.

President Saddam Husayn and the crown prince affirmed in their discussions the need to strengthen the course of the growing relations between the two fraternal countries, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

President Saddam Husayn hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the crown prince and his delegation. Deputy RCC Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, and the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Baghdad attended.

Judicial Cooperation Accord Signed With Bulgaria

JN0605191890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—Iraq and Bulgaria today signed a judicial cooperation agreement. The agreement, which was signed for Iraq by Justice Minister Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir and for Bulgaria by Bulgarian Justice Minister Pencho Stoyanov Penev, is designed to promote judicial and legal cooperation in the fields of judicial assistance, warrants, control, extradition of criminals, transfer of convicts, arbitration, confessions, and criminal proceedings.

Alignment Decisions on Government, Peace Process

Stand 'Softening'

TA0605165190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 May 90

[Report by Qeren Neubach from Labor Party headquarters in Tel Aviv "a few minutes ago"—recorded]

[Text] The meeting between the negotiating teams of the Alignment and the National Religious Party [NRP] ended a few minutes ago. At the end of the meeting, the main bone of contention was the question of giving a positive response to Baker. In the meeting, Shim'on Peres said yes to a unity government, but no to a government of subjugation. We are not prepared to be politically subjugated, Peres said, and we will not join in if there is no peace process. Nevertheless, Peres seems to have softened his position with regard to the positive response to Baker. He emphasized the decisive importance of the Cairo meeting, which was the main theme of the meeting. He said: Baker is not everything; the problem may not be the response to Baker. Let us hear a short interview we conducted with him:

[Peres] A delegation is necessary for the delegations to meet in Cairo, and to have a delegation, we must agree on its composition. We cannot evade the issues. If it were possible to conduct the negotiations only among ourselves, there would be no problem with a delegation. But to arrive at negotiations in Cairo with a delegation, there must be agreement on its composition.

[Neubach] Do you believe you will be able to bridge these differences?

[Peres] I do not know what the position of the Likud is. One must bear in mind that the process of disbanding the government began when Mr. Shamir gave in to the pressure of the constraints ministers.

[Voice of Israel party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz] Is saying yes to Baker a prerequisite for agreeing on a delegation?

[Peres] The condition for going to Cairo is agreeing on a delegation with the other side. Somebody once said it is inconceivable a football team should appoint the players of its rival team. There can be no game if there are no teams. The problem is not that of an answer to Baker; this has become a cliche. If we want to go to Cairo to hold negotiations on elections in the territories, we must agree on the composition of the delegation. That is the issue at stake. Otherwise, there is no reason to go to Cairo.

[Neubach] The problem is not the response to Baker, Peres says, and that is definitely a change. Alignment members say if some cosmetic change is effected regarding the response to Baker which will increase Shamir's prestige on the one hand and lead to the Cairo meeting on the other, that will be enough and the Alignment will make do with it.

It seems then that the Alignment is softening its position. The NRP delegation received the answers to its questions: Yes to unity, yes to the peace process, and yes to a mechanism that will prevent political limbo if the government is disbanded. If this is the case, elections will be called.

After hearing out the Alignment, the NRP delegates will convene in a larger forum to make a decision. The key is now in the hands of the NRP, a leading member of the Alignment's follow-up team told us—they have the initiative, and we are awaiting their answer.

Baker Not Mentioned in Decision

TA0705050490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpts] The Labor Party has decided to respond positively to a proposal to reestablish a national unity government. Details from reporter Tzvi Pantonovitz:

According to the Labor Party spokesman, the decision came last night, and it was made by its monitoring team, which was set up after the Likud was asked to form a government. The spokesman said the monitoring team had decided to say yes to a national unity government; yes to the peace process; yes to a mechanism for reaching government decisions that would avoid the standoff in the previous Inner Cabinet; and one no: no to a narrow-based government.

The decision came after the team met with National Religious Party representatives seeking to find a formula that would enable Labor to join a national unity coalition. Last night's announcement by Labor makes no mention of the Baker proposals, seen until now as a major sticking point to Labor's return to a unity government, since Prime Minister Shamir is not prepared to say yes in so many words to Baker.

The Labor Party spokesman said last night that the monitoring team's decision reflects a resolution adopted 10 days ago by the party bureau, which met at the time to reassess its position when Shim'on Peres forfeited his chance to form a government.

But a leading Labor dove, Hayim Ramon, the party's Knesset chief whip, says this is not what the bureau decided. He says that body ruled that the peace process demands saying yes to Baker. Ramon was scathing about party leaders who, he said, were ready to abandon approved positions and had forgotten why the old unity government was brought down in the first place. [passage omitted]

The first Likud reaction to the Labor Party's decision has come from Cabinet Minister Roni Milo, who is skeptical. He questioned the motives behind it, saying it might be an attempt to prevent the Likud from establishing a narrow government and to delay things until the Likud would lose its mandate from the president.

A key element in moves to form a national unity government is the orthodox SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Party. They are to hold consultations today

prior to meeting with the Likud negotiating team. Party sources told Voice of Israel that SHAS will not prevent the establishment of a narrow government under Yitzhaq Shamir, despite its desire for national unity. Speaking to reporters in the north yesterday, the party's spiritual leader, Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, declined to state clearly whether he supports a narrow-based, right- wing government. In the past, Rabbi Yosef issued a halakic ruling against this.

The left-wing MAPAM [United Workers Party] has called on Labor not to join a government under Prime Minister Shamir. The MAPAM Central Committee asked Labor, after meeting yesterday, to sit in opposition rather than become part of another national unity coalition.

Peres: 'Yes to Baker' Valid

TA0705063790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 May 90

[Telephone interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Gad Becker and Goni Mardor; place not given—live]

[Text] [Becker] Good morning to Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Becker] Mr. Peres, it is hard to say your declaration yesterday did not surprise us. How can it be that the issue that caused the collapse of the unity government....

[Peres, interrupting] I do not know what declaration you are talking about. I made no declaration that dropped the demands regarding the composition of the delegation and a positive answer to Baker.

[Becker] We heard you say that saying yes to Baker is not the main thing.

[Mardor] That it has become a cliche.

[Peres] Where did you hear this?

[Becker] That it has become, and I quote, a cliche.

[Peres] Who said that?

[Mardor] We heard it in your own voice.

[Peres] In my own voice? No, you could not have heard this in my own voice, because I never said such a thing.

[Becker] We did hear it, and we may find the recording from yesterday. However, in answer to....

[Peres, interrupting] I never said this. I repeat the problem is the composition of the delegation, which constitutes the meaning of saying yes to Baker. I have not changed my position one iota. I also told the NRP [National Religious Party] that the reason we left the government will also be the reason for our return; in other words: the peace process. There is no change whatsoever in my position.

[Becker] Here is the recording. Let us hear it together.

[Peres] Please.

[Begin Peres recording] The problem is not that of an answer to Baker; this has become a cliche. If we want to go to Cairo to hold negotiations on elections in the territories we must agree on the composition of the delegation. That is the issue at stake. Otherwise, there is no reason to go to Cairo. [end recording]

[Peres] Is that it?

[Becker] The opening statement—that the problem is not Baker—is certainly not coincidental.

[Peres] No, no, no. I was just explaining what we were discussing. You know, people say: Baker; it really has become a cliche. The problem is the composition of the delegation. What is the meaning of Baker? It means to express agreement on the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

[Mardor] And do you, Mr. Peres, believe agreement on such a fundamental issue is possible within a national unity government? After all, the previous government foundered and broke up over basically the same issue.

[Peres] I do not know. One must try, but I will not give up on the peace process, and there is no change in my positions. I am sorry if there was some misunderstanding, but the concluding part of my remarks makes it totally clear that what I say now is consistent with the statements I expressed earlier.

[Becker] I would still like to define things more precisely, so we are sure we understand each other. Baker's questions are faits accomplis, and they must receive a response.

[Peres] Yes, that is right.

[Becker] Must the Israeli Government expresaly convey a positive response to the queries submitted by Baker, or can ways and means be found to effectively further the peace process, without the Likud having to say an explicit yes to Baker, against its will?

[Peres] I have no knowledge of such a process. One can decide that another body must decide, etc., but I do not know of any alternative to a Palestinian delegation. I do not wish to delude anyone. This has been my position, and it remains so. The peace process stands at the center of everything I do.

[Mardor] But, Mr. Peres, where do you stand on a strong, unequivocal response to Baker?

[Peres] Positively. We should issue an affirmative answer regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation. What I meant when speaking about a cliche was that one could think we were doing Baker some kind of favor. I wanted to remind people, and I would like to do so again, that the issue in question is the composition

of the Palestinian delegation. Without resolving this, there is no one to talk to. Will we negotiate with ourselves?

[Becker] Do you think it is possible to reach an agreement with the Likud on the composition of the delegation at this time, when efforts are being devoted to the process of forming a government?

[Peres] Look, first of all, six Likud ministers voted in favor of giving Baker a positive answer. In addition, I would like to remind you that when Mr. Arens returned [from the United States] and briefed the Likud ministers, Minister Ehud Olmert heaped lavish praise on him. Olmert said it was a tremendous achievement, and that it excludes the PLO from the process. In fact, many people inside the Likud support an affirmative response to Baker's questions.

[Mardor] Mr. Peres, sources within the Likud expressed suspicion and skepticism regarding the Labor Party's declaration of its willingness to support and join a national unity government. The Likud says perhaps you just want to waste the time remaining in Yitzhaq Shamir's mandate.

[Peres] First of all, the use of their time is in their hands. We do not want to waste anything. We did not invite the NRP; the NRP invited itself, and we listened to them with respect and patience, as one should. I do not see any tricks on our part. We were approached; we answered their questions....

[Mardor, interrupting] You approached the Likud, even before the Likud turned to you.

[Peres] The Likud has not approached us.

[Mardor] But you have already said yes.

[Peres] To whom?

[Mardor] To the possibility of a national unity government.

[Peres] The NRP asked us, and we gave the NRP our answer. We did not break up the government because it was a national unity government. We, or rather I should say Mr. Shamir, broke it up because we reached a dead end regarding the peace process. That is all. If the road reopens, the process will resume.

[Becker] Watching developments in the Labor Party, some people now say the party's official declaration and perhaps some new nuances in your statements result from the internal tensions and the new positions adopted by Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Peres] No. The Labor Party Bureau makes the decisions, and we all abide by them. The bureau called for the prevention of a narrow government and expressed willingness to participate in a national unity government, if a positive response is given to Baker's questions.

[Mardor] There are voices today who say Peres is adopting the same line taken by Yitzhaq Rabin to keep his position as No. 1 in the party's leadership.

[Peres] There is no limit to wickedness, to evil, and to the search for hidden meanings. What can I say? I find new inventions and disinformation every day. What can one do?

[Becker] I would indeed like to quote a statement attributed to you. In one of today's papers, you complain that disinformation and lies are being spread about you. Who is behind this? Your colleagues in the Labor Party?

[Peres] I do not know. All these things are said anonymously. Yesterday for example, I read in HA'ARETZ about questions I was never asked and answers I never gave.

[Mardor] Regarding the committee that is looking into the party's failure in elections?

[Peres] Yes. The source was anonymous, so what can I say? In the media, one can remain anonymous.

[Becker] Are these manifestations of the old Peres-Rabin feud?

[Peres] I am not attributing this to anyone, neither to anonymous nor to diabolical forces. I would just like to point out that disinformation is being spread continuously, and this is confusing.

[Mardor] Is the Peres-Rabin feud also just disinformation, or do you feel it is an actual fact?

[Peres] I do not believe the party's problem is a confrontation between two people. Rabin expressed his opinion, and that is that. I think I am fighting for something that is central to Israel's survival, and I will not stray, neither left nor right.

[Becker] Mr. Peres, in conclusion, I would like to address a slightly more pertinent question regarding the national unity government. There is talk of changing the mechanisms of decision within the national unity government, of changing the voting procedures and the Inner Cabinet set up. Is there any specific idea on this issue that is acceptable to you?

[Peres] Listen, the NRP presented some ideas yesterday. We said we would look into them, and I do not want to answer on the run. We will see what they suggest. Obviously, a government of inaction is not desirable. We want a government that will make decisions. However, if the intention is to build up a mechanism of continual decisions against us, we will obviously not participate in such a government.

[Becker] Are you a partner to our feeling that last night we took a small, but quite determined step in the direction of national unity?

[Peres] I am not sure.

[Becker] Mr. Peres, thank you very much.

Commentary Views 'Cold Wind' Blowing From U.S.

TA0405153990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
4 May 90 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "They are Preparing the Rope"]

[Text] The voices coming from the United States are giving me goose bumps. Not a day goes by without some angry statement issued against us; without some critical article, or a "friendly warning" that we are losing public support being published or expressed there. Congressmen warn of a serious erosion in U.S.-Israeli relations, and a bone-chilling cold wind is blowing in the corridors of the Administration. "The Jewish Community is fit to burst (reports a Washington correspondent) and can no longer hold its criticism of Israel inside."

The combination of all these signs creates the impression that "our American friends," as POLES [nom de plume of another HA'ARETZ columnist] calls them, are preparing a rope for us. This rope may be designed to forcibly pull us into the peace process. If we do not grab hold of it, it may turn into a hanging rope. It would be irresponsible to take this worrying development lightly.

The administration is dusting off its swords in preparation for Shamir's narrow government. It is no secret that even without Ge'ula Kohen and Rehav'am Ze'evi [leaders of the extreme right-wing Tehiya and Moledet parties] in the government, and the constraints ministers in key positions, there is an atmosphere of mistrust regarding Yitzhaq Shamir. President George Bush does not hide his distrust of Shamir, after feeling Shamir has fooled him time after time. As a result of his gentlemanly bearing in private conversations, Shamir often creates the impression there is no man more moderate than him. For this reason, many Americans leave his presence—Shultz was there before Bush—believing progress has been made, only later to discover from Shamir's public declarations that his actions are in total contrast to the impression he made in private.

Shamir has made a series of statements that leave no doubt as to his positions. In response to Ge'ula Kohen's "Quo vadis, Shamir?" he said: My direction is Greater Israel. Later came his statement on "a big Israel," and a statement attributed to him in Washington that "if not for the Americans, we would have already been in the midst of a dialogue with the Palestinians." His latest declaration: "The fate of the government cannot hinge on saying yes to Baker. No one can expect us to accept every proposal and every idea offered by the U.S. secretary of state." This comment—amid the flood of reports on settlements in Gaza, Samaria, and Jerusalem's Old City—received a justifiably angry response from the State Department's spokeswoman who stated: We're perplexed. After all, the "yes to Baker" is not just some caprice or just any "idea offered by the U.S. secretary of state," but the result of a long dialogue with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. The Baker query was a compromise proposal that was worked out after negotiations between the two capitals.

The declaration of Shamir's bureau that the U.S. State Department spokeswoman's remarks were "taken out of context" led Baker to say he was encouraged by the fact "Shamir has never said no to our proposal—hasn't said yes but hasn't said no." However, Washington's outspokenness implies they do not entertain many illusions regarding Shamir's intentions.

If Shamir had wanted to say "yes," he would have done it a long time ago—even while in the caretaker government (thus stealing the show from the Labor Party). The United States apparently understands there is no chance a narrow government would give Baker an affirmative response. Meanwhile the foot- dragging will continue amid attempts to violently quell the intifadah by sheer brute force. The Likud delicately refers to this option as "getting the intifadah off the television screens in the United States."

Great pressure is mounting on Israel in the United States. It is not every day a friendly senator, such as Howard Metzenbaum, says "Israel may lose the battle for public opinion." It is not every day Thomas Foley, speaker of the House of Representatives, asserts "Israel's standing on Capitol Hill may be eroded." I already have commented this week that we are not just on a collision course with the United States, but also with American Jewry. Organizations that exist to help us wage our battles are finding it hard to stand in the breach. After all, our weapons always have been the fact we were known to be striving for peace, and that we were "the only democracy in the Middle East," and our status on both of these is now somewhat blurred. Not that the Arab side is an easy customer, but it is difficult to defend Israel and to prove its intentions are good.

The administration will not give Shamir much time. He already is the prime minister, and the initiative is his own. Therefore, he is not in need of a 100-day grace period to start anew. They are definitely already pressuring him and attempting to influence the future government. A senior political source in Jerusalem (according to 'Aqiva Eldar) [another HA'ARETZ correspondent], complained "there are senior figures in the United States who would wish to meddle in Israel's internal affairs." What, really? To meddle? Let us not forget this meddling is done with a silver spoon worth $3 billion each year. When Baker declares "we've never taken the position that it is an entitlement," we had better realize U.S. meddling is not the worst thing that can happen to us. Let us beware the day the United States stops meddling.

For some reason, we have subscribed to the theory that the worst thing that can possibly happen to us is for the U.S. Administration to withdraw from its mediation efforts and "let us stew in our own juices." Whoever is

counting on that—and Shamir and the constraints ministers would undoubtedly wish to be left alone—has not thought things out to the end. Baker (speaking before the Senate's Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations this week) said: So you ask me, "Are we going to press on?" "Are we going to throw in the towel?" "What are we going to do?" The answer is, "Obviously we're going to press on with respect to the peace process." It was no accident Baker used metaphors from the world of boxing; the alternative to throwing in the towel (surrender) is to keep on hitting.

If the towel is thrown in, or in other words, when the United States decides to bid us farewell, we had better remember it has a history of painful goodbyes—Taiwan and Vietnam. Perhaps they will be nicer to us and turn their backs on us slowly. A sanction here, a sanction there. A veto here, a veto there. A cut here, a cut there. But when they say goodbye, it will be a painful parting. Do you understand that, Yitzhaq Shamir?

U.S. 'Flirting With Appeasement' on Hostages

TA0605105790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Dangerous Talk on Hostages"]

[Text] When U.S. President Lyndon Johnson expressed surprise to Premier Levi Eshkol about Jewish sensitivity to seemingly innocuous remarks, Eshkol was quoted as replying, "Don't forget, Mr. President, Jews come by their paranoia honestly." One is reminded of this as politicians, pundits and columnists burrow into every sentence uttered by President Bush and Secretary Baker in search of threats and calumnies. True, American disappointment at Mr. Peres's failure to form a government is palpable—the outspoken preference of a right-wing U.S. Administration for a left-wing government in Israel should make a fascinating study some day—and the world press is having as much fun bashing Mr. Shamir as it once did savaging Menahem Begin, now nostalgically extolled as the great peace-maker. But when Mr. Baker's promise "to press on" is translated in the Israel press as "to pressure," and his use of a metaphor from the pugilistic world to declare that he "would not throw in the towel" is interpreted as a threat to slug it out with Israel, one wonders whether the compulsive search for hidden American maledictions is merely a masochistic sport or a local attempt to scare Mr. Shamir.

But if last Thursday's reference by President Bush to Israel-held "hostages" was not just a slip of the tongue it could be dangerous indeed. Is Mr. Bush comparing school-teachers, physicians, journalists and clerics kidnapped and held by Arab and Iranian terrorist gangs with captured terrorist chieftains and gunmen caught crossing the Israel border? It is to be hoped that this is not the case, even though the U.S. President expressed himself similarly when Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, leader of a terrorist group responsible for killing over 300 Americans, was apprehended last July by an Israel commando unit, without a major invasion and the loss of thousands of lives. At the time, the Hizballah threatened to execute American Lt. Colonel William Higgins, who had in fact been murdered six months earlier. Senator Robert Dole reacted by accusing Israel of endangering American lives, and the President as much as equated the capture of the shaykh with the kidnapping of Col. Higgins.

Officially, the Administration's policy on hostages is to brook no deals with abductors and yield to no demands. Sometimes it abides by this policy. When two weeks ago, the Hizballah threatened not to go through with the release of Robert Polhill unless a high-ranking American diplomat came to Damascus, President Bush, in the face of public outcry, courageously ignored them. Polhill was released anyway. When last year the Hizballah threatened to execute hostage Joseph Cicippio unless Israel released Shaykh 'Ubayd, the President did not demand 'Ubayd's release, but warned of American military retaliation against Hizballah. The tough stance paid off and Cicippio was not executed. But then, in a puzzling gesture of appeasement, the Administration allowed the release of $567 million of Iranian frozen assets.

By referring now to "hostages on both sides" and hinting that an Israel "gesture" would be welcome, the U.S. is again flirting with appeasement. It has obviously not yet developed a consistent policy or drawn logical conclusions from its experience with terrorism. The one bold large-scale American action which dealt a significant blow to international terrorism, was the bombing of Libya by the American airforce. True, that was also the only instance in which an American hostage held by terrorists in Lebanon—Peter Kilburn—was murdered in retaliation for an antiterrorist action; but Libyan-sponsored world terrorism was halted for a long time and it never fully recovered. Today, the main sponsors of terrorist groups such as the Hizballah and the Jibril group are Iran and Syria, named as such by the State Department. Only the threat of Western sanctions can persuade these regimes to shun terrorism. Rewarding them either financially or politically is to ensure that terrorism will never be eliminated. Ransom may achieve the release of the present hostages, at least those who are still alive, but it is a futile exercise: unless all Western citizens, including those with Lebanese families, are evacuated from Lebanon there will always be a reservoir of potential hostages, and the ghoulish trade in human lives will continue. One of Israel's greatest blunders, for which it is still paying dearly, was the exchange in 1985 of 1,150 terrorists, of whom many were allowed to stay in Israel, for three Israeli prisoners held by the Syrian-sponsored Jibril group. If Israel agrees to release Shaykh 'Ubayd and other terrorists, as part of a package deal, none must be allowed to stay in Israel-controlled areas and all three Israelis in Hizballah's hands must be set free.

Cabinet Briefed on Husayn Yacht, Other Issues

TA0605151290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 May 90

[By political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The affair of King Husayn's yacht in the Gulf of Elat was raised in the Cabinet session today. Defense elements reported on the incident, saying it was a routine patrol of Israeli territorial waters, and regular test shots were fired. The elements also said that because of the special shape of the territorial waters, a situation exists where Jordanian vessels enter them. It was stressed no shots were fired at King Husayn's yacht. In any event, no test firing is being conducted near the royal yacht. The defense element concluded the discussion of the issue by saying: This was much ado about nothing.

Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, briefed participants on the security situation.

The ministers also discussed the meeting between Mubarak and al-Asad. On the Egyptian president's attacks on the prime minister, Shamir said: Such remarks are being made in Egypt on a daily basis by the president and others. In the past, Shamir said, we used to respond, but an impression of tension between us and the Egyptians was created. I have no interest in promoting nonexistent tension, Shamir concluded.

The foreign minister briefed the Cabinet on our relations with the Eastern bloc countries. Israel has appealed to the USSR concerning the activities and threats issued by the Pamyat organization to hurt Soviet Jews. Foreign Minister Arens reported the level of relations that will be reestablished with Yugoslavia is still unclear, and noted a Cabinet resolution is still expected to be made concerning the reestablishment of relations with the GDR.

Prime Minister Shamir concluded by noting that the reestablishment of political ties has recently become routine and self-explanatory, but is of high importance in political and economic terms. The prime minister also reported to the Cabinet that the planned visit by U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney has been postponed because he is busy with affairs in Washington, not because of the political situation in Israel.

Deputies, Notables Question National Charter

JN0505164290 Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI' in Arabic 30 Apr pp 12-13

[By Badr 'Abd-al-Haq]

[Text] Amman—It has been some time since the announcement of the formation of the "Royal Commission tasked with drafting the Jordanian National Charter", and yet questions are being asked not only about its contents, provisions, and principles, but also on whether the charter's legal force will be above or below that of the Constitution.

If the scores of questions are summed up in one question, it is this: Why the charter at all, and what does it set out to achieve?

To answer this question, we have sought the opinion of three parliamentary deputies, one of whom sits on the commission (Dr. Dhib Marji), and Faris Sulayman al-Nabulsi and Fakhri Qa'war.

We have also sought the opinion of two public figures from outside the house—'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar, president of the Association of Jordanian Writers, and member of the drafting commission; and Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi—doyen of the Doctors Association, who is not a member of the 60-member appointed commission chaired by former Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat.

Deputy Faris al-Nabulsi says: The idea of the National Charter has been associated with the incidents that rocked southern Jordan in April 1989 and which were said to have prompted the authorities to work out a formula for comprehensive political and social accommodation in the interest of national unity. Talk about the charter continued until the 8 November 1989 general elections that produced the current House of Representatives. During its first session, King Husayn officially announced the idea of the national charter.

Personally, I think the Jordanian Constitution's advanced provisions obviate the need for any other formula. Abiding by the Constitution makes any talk of the charter superfluous. It is said the charter aims to stress allegiance to the regime, although no one has declared opposition to the regime. That point was made during Parliament's debate of Mr. Mudar Badran's policy statement when all the deputies declared their allegiance, emphasizing that, while they were against certain government practices, they were not opposed to the regime itself. Thus, if the idea behind the charter is to stress allegiance, the deputies have made that much clear enough.

Naturally, there has been talk about the charter as "a new social contract" between the people and the regime. After a 30-year hiatus in parliamentary life in the country however, there has not been enough democracy since the elections. If, indeed, there is a need for a new social contract, the House of Representatives must wait until it has had enough time to practice its legislative powers, and then we should be able to determine if a need exists for a "social contract" or charter.

As for putting the charter to a plebiscite, this is a gross violation of the Constitution. If there is a real need for the charter, it must be presented to Parliament as a bill.

['Abd-al-Haq] It has been said the charter commission will include representatives of all parties and trends so as to produce a representative document. Yet strikingly, all the professional unions, which represent 12 associations and 150,000 members, have been excluded from the commission. It is also noteworthy the majority of commission members are close or beholden to the government. Accordingly, does this mean the idea behind the charter is to rein in and control the democratic experiment or even manipulate it to serve the regime?

[Al-Nabulsi] Yes, and the proof is that the Jordanian press has blatantly adopted and promoted the cause of the charter. Not one opinion at odds with the government's has been published. The chief editors of the three dailies were appointed members of the drafting commission.

['Abd-al-Haq] It is said the charter will control and organize party activity. Do you think so?

[Al-Nabulsi] The question of controlling party activity is related to the parties' financial resources. I support the idea of controlling the financial aspect of parties through reactivating their role and reviving the law on parties, which has been out of action since 1957. But as far as ideas and thoughts are concerned, no one has the right to restrict people's freedoms and ideologies.

Deputy Dr. Dhib Marji "from the Popular Front" [for the Liberation of Palestine] says: During the parliamentary vote of confidence session, I never discussed the charter. I always said the charter must not be a substitute for the Constitution. I still hold the same view, although I am a member of the charter commission. We understand the charter as an attempt to explain some articles in the Constitution. We will act to deepen and consolidate certain articles in the Constitution, especially those concerning citizens' issues and liberties and social justice.

['Abd-al-Haq] Given the existence of a modern and developed constitution, what is the charter's raison d'etre?

[Marji] This question is being asked by the public. The charter cannot deal with only one aspect of political activity. This is the first time the political forces represented in the charter commission have been given the opportunity to express their views clearly on economic, social, and educational programs.

['Abd-al-Haq] Assuming the final formula of the charter is ideal and responsive to the demands of the majority of the public, what will be the relationship between the charter and the Constitution?

[Marji] The question, indeed, is: Does Parliament really represent all the trends in the country? The answer, of course, is no. Some political trends ran in the elections

but failed to make it into the House of Representatives. Charter commission members were appointed because they do not represent the people in the same way members of Parliament do; these members represent political and social forces and trends. We know there is great diversity in Jordan, with many trends and ideologies. Therefore, one of the charter's aims is to find common denominators among those various trends and consolidate them and minimize the differences among them. We must admit problems exist in the country. The various forces and trends must have roles to play in order to deal with these problems and place them in the appropriate national context. These roles can only be played if we have a clear vision of political action, especially since only a few political forces in Jordan have effective and influential organizations.

['Abd-al-Haq] Do you think one of the aims of the charter is to control party and political life in Jordan?

[Marji] Of course not. The aim is to control the mechanism of party activity, not the parties themselves; that is, methods of action should be constitutional, peaceful, and legal.

Deputy Fakhri Qa'war (from the Democratic Bloc) says: The charter in question has no constitutional basis. Jordan's Constitution does not provide for a "national charter". The Constitution clearly stipulates that any article concerning liberties must be based on a constitutional text. Nor does the Constitution provide for the proposed public referendum, in which the people will be asked whether or not they endorse the charter. The Constitution governs Jordan's party life according to clear and precise constitutional texts and bases, and through the legislative authority of Parliament.

If the king wishes to take any measure concerning the charter or the like, it should go through Parliament. The fact the Constitution does not provide for setting up a charter or holding a referendum on it means the king does not have the power to do so. Many constitutions in the world give the head of state the power to hold referendums in certain cases—Egypt, for example. I am, therefore, of the view the idea of the charter violates the Jordanian Constitution.

['Abd-al-Haq] So, what does the king want the charter to do?

[Ka'war] I do not have an answer to that question. I believe, however, that the charter idea is the king's way of attempting to organize political life in the country. Many people might differ with the king on this, while many others might agree with him.

I believe there are no objective reasons for such a charter, since the Constitution is the basic and primary guarantor of political life and, in particular, because the Jordanian Constitution is viewed as the basic law recognized by all political and national forces in the country. There are no reasons for further political guarantees other than the Constitution. Besides, referendums held in other parts of the world usually concern specific issues and questions. They do not concern lengthy texts that might confuse citizens as to what they are asked to vote for or against.

['Abd-al-Haq] Do you believe the appointed charter commission members represent fairly and comprehensively all political and social forces?

[Ka'war] I believe the representation of political forces in the charter commission makeup is very limited or even symbolic, whereas the representation of liberal forces or the forces considered loyal to the regime is wider and more extensive. When the charter to be drafted is put to a referendum, not all the political forces in the country can impose their own views, but the forces enjoying the widest and most extensive representation can dictate whatever they like. Perhaps, one of the most important failings in the charter commission makeup is that trade union leaders were deliberately and purposely excluded, despite the fact they are trade union and political leaders who have played a greatly pioneering role in defending basic liberties, the freedom of opinion, and a free press before the dawn of democracy broke in Jordan. It has been noticed that all the deputies who withheld confidence from Mudar Badran's government, including myself, were excluded from the charter commission.

Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi, doyen of physicians and head of the General Federation of Trade Unions, has said: When the idea of the charter was first brought up, it was received with consternation and amazement by a large number of citizens. People began to wonder about the need for a charter when we have the Constitution. I so far have failed to find any use for the charter (during a conversation with 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, an adviser to the king who is also a theoretician on the charter). Abu-'Awdah said Jordan needs to define its national identity, despite the fact the Jordanian state is more than 70 years old. I find this argument strange. If the charter is meant to organize, and not shackle, parties, a law organizing the work of these parties would then be a good and constitutional solution. However, if the objective is to conclude a new "social contract", then this would really be strange and incomprehensible. So far, there is nothing to convince me of the need for this charter.

At any rate, I will wait for the final formula of the charter. If I find the formula positive, I will vote for it. Otherwise, I will work for voting against the charter.

As for the exclusion of trade union leaders from the charter commission, I believe the idea of having people represented in the charter commission is mistaken, simply because the process of drafting a charter is a philosophical one. Charters are drawn up by specialists who represent no particular current in society. When their work is finished, charters are put to the people in referendums to ascertain whether they approve or disprove of these charters.

I believe the exclusion of trade unions from the charter commission was deliberate. I also believe the "pockets of

corruption" surrounding his majesty the king are vindictive and are seeking revenge on the trade unions, which managed to remove some of the corruption that emerged before the April 1989 incidents. Remnants of symbols of this corruption still surround the king. Trade unions were there before the charter and will continue if the charter is adopted. As for their national and democratic role, it is well-known and desired by the overwhelming majority of the Jordanian people. What we must do right now is call upon all Arab trade unions for a conference to discuss Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. All other forces that pretend to represent the people and to safeguard their interests have failed to perform this task.

The poet 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar, head of the Jordanian Writers' Association and member of the charter commission, says: The idea of the charter is an old one. It is an attempt to end the political crisis that has gripped Jordan from 1957 to the present day, or rather, until the results of the parliamentary elections were announced and the first session of the new parliament was convened. During that session, an attempt was made to put an end to the crisis. The truth of the matter is that, in the absence of Parliament and the suspension of the Constitution, many difficult problems cropped up. It became necessary to mobilize this society through legislation to hasten the progressive reform movement of this society.

In the beginning, when the concept of the charter was proposed, I opposed it. I wrote an article opposing it. I told a number of officials we are acting like those who try to create an electric current rather than be satisfied with plugging the light into the electrical socket.

In Jordan, there has been a developed constitution since 1946. This constitution was not given the chance to develop under Glubb Pasha and foreign hegemony. Later, it was prevented from developing by the defense and emergency laws. We are now in a democratic stage. So far, we cannot claim to live in a fully democratic society. We are at a stage where we are merely heading there, no more.

When the charter commission was formed and I was appointed to it, the idea crossed my mind that the issue could be looked at comprehensively. When a society in crisis is facing certain types of crises, these crises dictate the emergence of a charter that includes all the social forces capable of solving them. We are now living in a similar stage. Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir had a similar experience after the separation [of the United Arab Republic in 1961] when the charter emerged. We in Jordan have just emerged from one third of a century of martial law and suspension of the Constitution. Therefore, all the political, economic, social, educational, and informational crises we are facing require organizing our society in a way that contributes to progress and eliminates many of the elements delaying the progress of the society.

In addition to that, we have two concepts to consider. The first is the traditional concept inherited from Rousseau, which defines a constitution as a social contract. We, however, have purposely deviated from this social contract and many institutions have been formed to deviate from it. The Jordanian people opposed these deviations and demanded democracy and social justice over and over again throughout the years. There were many victims of this demand for democracy. They now believe this social contract has ended and that what is coming in Jordan is a document reflecting the class struggle in Jordan more than it reflects the social contract. In other words, the powerful person resorts to martial law and legalizes the laws he wants. This is what led to the crises mentioned above.

We are now facing a charter. The answer to the question concerning balanced representation of all the social forces is no, since it is not possible to achieve such a balance in representation. I know how urgent the question of the necessity of the charter is, despite the presence of a developed constitution. Why is party political life not organized according to parliamentary legislation, but through the efforts of the charter commission instead? Personally, I cannot stress enough the importance of submitting the charter to a general popular referendum, especially at a time when political organizations have a very strong presence that allows them to present their opinions and policies in Parliament, the press, and using all means of communication.

So, the issue of the formal presence of a charter could be seen as part of prevailing practice. I say, therefore, that the background of historical facts in which parliamentary elections were held, and which brought this parliament into existence, is a sort of extension of the past third of a century (in which democracy was absent) into the present we wish to reform.

Here end the ideas of these deputies and public figures, but discussion continues far and wide in all Jordanian fora and sessions concerning the charter. Why? How? And to where?

Israeli Firing at Royal Yacht 'Provocative'

JN0605070190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] An informed Jordanian source in Amman yesterday termed the Israeli Navy's firing at King Husayn's yacht in the Gulf of Aqaba as provocative. He thus confirmed reports that an Israeli gunboat opened fire on the royal yacht on 28 April. A senior Jordanian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, emphasized King Husayn was aboard his yacht when an Israeli boat fired at it in the Gulf of Aqaba. Previous Jordanian reports said King Husayn was not on board when the incident occurred. As is well known, the Israeli authorities denied firing at the royal yacht and said the boat did open fire during training operations, but in the opposite direction.

More on Hizballah Actions Regarding Hostages

Spain Urged To Free Detainees

NC0305183990 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] One of Lebanon's Hizballah leaders yesterday warned the Spanish Government in connection with the fate of seven Lebanese Muslims detained in Spain.

The Spanish news agency cited this official, who identified himself to the agency as Abu-Ahmad, as asserting that the Spanish Government must avoid provoking the Muslims of Lebanon's Hizballah.

Abu-Ahmad noted that the continued detention of these strugglers may provoke the Muslims. He said the Lebanese Muslims who were detained in Spain had no intention of carrying out operations in Spanish territory; rather, their aim was to attack U.S., French, and Zionist interests in Europe.

Fadlallah Favors Freeing Westerners

NC0405191490 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] 'Allamah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said: Within the context of our humanitarian concept, we approve of the release of all the Western hostages in Lebanon, provided the end result is in the interest of humanitarian causes and the freedom of the Muslims.

Al-Sayyid Fadlallah called on Muslims to establish military, cultural, and economic forces to achieve the goals of Islam and to confront the forces that are robbing the Islamic world. He warned against weakening and despairing vis-a-vis the forces of global arrogance.

'Allamah Fadlallah also warned against disputes among the Islamic forces in Lebanon.

In a Friday sermon at al-Imam al-Rida mosque in Beirut's Southern Suburb, 'Allamah Fadlallah addressed the Islamic forces saying: The resources of the peoples are being utilized against Islam. Therefore, you must unite your ranks to confront them.

His Eminence 'Allamah Fadlallah strongly attacked the state that characterizes the Palestinian liberation operations against the Zionist enemy in Palestine as terrorist actions. He said: The world supports the Zionist entity despite the crimes it sees this entity committing against the Palestinian Muslims. He alluded to the support the United States gives to the Zionists entity and the aid it provides for the purpose of establishing new Jewish settlements for the Soviet Jewish immigrants in occupied Palestine.

His eminence said that the United States is exploiting the capitulation of the Arab regimes to present more security support to Israel. He emphasized that the United States will stand with the Arabs only when this stand serves its own and Israel's interests.

Denies Holding Hostages

NC0505063990 Paris AFP in English 0554 GMT 5 May 90

[Excerpts] Beirut, May 5 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Hizballah group denied here that it was holding Western hostages but said any moves to release them would depend on Washington seeking the freedom of Arab and Iranian prisoners.

"Hizballah has no link whatsoever with the issue of Western hostages," the Muslim Shiite fundamentalist group said, after a U.S. official charged that Hizballah was holding all 15 Westerners still detained in Lebanon.

But the statement Friday added that following the release of U.S. hostages Robert Polhill and Frank Reed on April 22 and 30, the United States would be "responsible for any future complication in this affair."

"American public opinion, the media and international groups must pressure the U.S. administration to seek the release of Lebanese, Palestinian and Iranian detainees and hostages held in the prisons of the Zionist enemy (Israel), its agents and America's allies in the region," Hizballah said.

"This is how the hostage issue could be resolved peacefully. The ball is now in the U.S. camp particularly after the efforts deployed by Iran and Syria leading to the release of two Americans," the statement added.

A former Hizballah leader, Husayn al-Musawi, meanwhile urged groups holding hostages "not to encourage the United States to become more aggressive."

Mr. al-Musawi, quoted by AL-SAFIR daily, said the hostage issue "was becoming more complicated because of the poor welcome by the United States to the goodwill gestures made by Islamic groups."

"Polhill's release made us hope that something would be done for all the people detained in Lebanon, Palestine, Kuwait and Europe," the head of the pro-Syrian Islamic Amal group said.

"But Washington's bad intentions force us to advise involved parties to be careful not to encourage a harder U.S. stance," he added.

A senior U.S official, who declined to be identified, charged Wednesday that names used by clandestine groups claiming to be holding the Western hostages, including six Americans, in Lebanon were in fact aliases for Hizballah. [passage omitted]

But on Thursday, U.S. President George Bush offered to help gather information about the four Iranian hostages as a goodwill gesture that he said would not violate U.S. policy on dealing with hostage-takers.

The TEHRAN TIMES, considered a mouthpiece for Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Friday acknowledged the offer, saying Mr. Bush had "realized his mistake" in failing to respond earlier to the hostage releases.

"What is necessary now... is action and not words," the paper added.

On Thursday Mr. Rafsanjani had called the United States a "stubborn and difficult child," for failing to make a goodwill gesture towards Tehran.

Mr. Bush said he believed the four Iranians were dead.

The Tehran Times said Iran also hoped for information on some 400 Shiites and more than 1,000 Palestinians Mr. Rafsanjani said were being held by Israel. [passage omitted]

TEHRAN TIMES: Bush Realized 'Mistake'

WA0505085590 Paris AFP in English 0309 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 5 (AFP)—Iran on Friday acknowledged U.S. President George Bush's offer to provide the country with information about four Iranians who disappeared in Lebanon eight years ago, saying the U.S. leader had "realized his mistake" in not issuing a goodwill signal immediately after the release of two U.S. hostages.

The English-language Tehran Times, considered a mouthpiece for Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said: "President George Bush, realizing his mistake, tried to undo what his State Department and Congress had detrimentally done during the past three weeks."

Mr. Bush's offer Thursday of what he called a "gesture of goodwill" for the return of Robert Polhill and Frank Reed by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon was something "he no doubt should have done almost soon after the release of each of these hostages," the Tehran Times said.

On Thursday President Rafsanjani called the United States a "stubborn, frustrated child" for failing to respond to the hostage release.

Earlier in the week Iran threatened to halt further efforts towards the release of hostages unless Washington responded with a goodwill gesture.

Mr. Bush said he believed the four missing Iranians, who were captured by Lebanese Christian militia in 1982, were dead but added Washington was actively seeking information about them.

The Tehran Times, which said the Iranians had been kidnapped by Israeli mercenaries, added: "What is necessary now... is action and not words."

"If President Bush is really sincere, it is expected authentic information about four Iranians be furnished to Tehran," the newspaper said.

It said Iran also hoped for information about other Moslems held by Israel, including Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, reputedly the leader of the pro-Iranian Hizballah group, who was seized last July by Israeli commandos in Lebanon.

The Tehran Times continued: "If words can be translated into practice, it is then and only then that the Muslims in Lebanon can be expected to continue their goodwill gestures in return."

A total of 15 Western hostages remain in the hands of Lebanese kidnappers. Six of them are Americans.

Continuing Clashes With Israeli Forces Reported

NC0705092590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] The Martyr Muhammad Salim unit, a fedayeen group from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP]—the Higher Council, has been waging a heroic confrontation with the Zionist occupation forces and their agents on the Bint Jubayl-Kafra road since 0730 today. The confrontation followed an attack carried out by the unit against the occupation forces position No. 17 in the area.

According to an SSNP statement, the clashes are continuing, particularly in al-Tirah village. The statement added the enemy is using tanks and planes in fighting the resistance heroes.

'Awn Vows To Attack 'Any Naval Target'

NC0505071790 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 May 90

[Excerpts] Tension reigns along the various combat lines in the eastern areas amid intermittent clashes between the 'Awn and Ja'ja' troops. Machine guns and rockets are being used in the fighting, particularly on the lines of al-Ashrafiyah, Sinn and Fil, al-'Adliyah, Badaru, and the museum. Isolated clashes involving heavy-caliber machine guns and rockets broke out on the al-Qulay'at-Darayya axis early today. Similar clashes raged in al-Dubayyah and al-Barjawi areas at 0600 today. [passage omitted]

Former Army General Michel 'Awn yesterday threatened that fire will be directed at any naval target [hadaf bahri] that cruises off the coast between al-Dubayyah and Antilyas. REUTER cited a source close to 'Awn as saying the army has been instructed to open fire at any naval target that sails within five km off the al-Dubayyah-Antilyas coast.

'Violent Bombardment' of Coast

NC0605195890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] The Kasrawan coast is coming under violent bombardment from 'Awn's gunmen. Shells are falling at the rate of 10 per minute. 'Awn's group shelled this same area at

1615, concentrating its attacks on the Sunny Boat ferry which transports passengers between Cyprus and Juniyah.

Resistance Fighters Attack Five Lahd Positions

NC0705084090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] At dawn today, resistance fighters attacked five positions of the agent militia along the Kafr Falus-'Ayn al-Mir front, using rockets and automatic weapons. The resistance fighters clashed with the defenders of these positions for about one hour, inflicting several casualties among them.

The agent militia's Voice of the South radio admitted the attacks this morning, saying the agents repulsed the attackers following fierce clashes, as the radio put it. The radio did not report any casualties.

In another development, enemy warplanes carried out mock raids over the east of Sidon, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and Hasbayya areas shortly after midnight last night, dropping scores of illumination flares.

Amal, Hizballah Clash in Beirut Suburb

NC0305191890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Violent clashes erupted between Amal Movement and Hizballah in the areas of al-Ghubayrah, Hajjaj, and al-Musharrafiyah in Beirut's Southern Suburb at 1930 this evening. So far, seven people have been wounded and several fires broke out in al-Shiyah as a result of the clashes.

A Hizballah source said that the fringes of the Mahallat Mu'awwad and the area of al-Ghubayrah have been coming under 120-mm and 82-mm mortar fire since 1945. The source said that the Amal Movement is reinforcing some of its military positions in the Suburb.

Al-Asad-Mubarak Summit 'Reconnects Two Pillars'

JN0405070090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Damascus Summit Reconnects the Nation's Two Pillars," AL-BA'TH says: The summit between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak has revived the hopes and reconnected the Arab nation's two pillars to bridge the gap through which the Zionist threat had infiltrated. The cornerstone was placed in its position again to reconstruct the bridge, which was built during the October liberation [war] and which set the example for heroism and victory.

AL-BA'TH says: Because the Damascus summit came at the required time, it will settle a state of affairs that existed before and will constitute the starting point for a new state of affairs and the beginning of fruitful Arab action.

Under the headline "The Meeting of Solidarity," AL-THAWRAH says: The historic Damascus meeting has many meanings and dimensions. There is a historic significance in the fact that the al-Asad-Mubarak meeting marked the return of the normal historic position for Syria and Egypt—the position of crucial cohesion in the service of Arabs and their future. Another meaning can be found in the great importance of this summit, which stems from the seriousness of the dangers facing the Arab homeland. The Arab masses view the Damascus meeting as the key to Arab solidarity and the fundamental step for shouldering the historic responsibility for defending the Arab presence.

In a column entitled "The Promising Meeting," TISHRIN says: The talks between Presidents Al-Asad and Mubarak have strengthened relations between the two brotherly countries and have built a real bridge for strong cooperation, which will include, above all else, the massing of Arab resources to face the new danger that threatens the Arab character of Palestine and the Arab future.

Commentary on Damascus Summit

JN0405151390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: There is no doubt that Arab and world highlighting of the Damascus summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Husni Mubarak confirms that the results of this summit are bound to reflect positively on the political map of the region, on the current standing of the Palestine question—the Arab's basic and central issue—on the factors and circumstances that lead to joint Arab action, and on the Arab position toward the standing challenges and imminent dangers the Arab nation's existence, destiny, and future are being subjected to.

The Damascus summit—which bolstered the fraternal ties of cooperation between Syria and Egypt—is a victory for all Arabs because history has confirmed that, considering the influence that Syria and Egypt possess in the arena of pan-Arab action, once they meet this action is bound to be upgraded in a positive manner. This, in turn, will consolidate the Arab stance, imparting vigor, steadfastness, and strength to this stance, to the way it should be characterized, and to the effectiveness, activity, and dynamism that should be its hallmarks.

The only time the Arabs managed to repulse the Crusader invasion was when Syria and Egypt were together. Likewise, the only time the Zionist invasion was met with a real and necessary confrontation was when Syria and Egypt were together, and Israel found itself on the horns of a dilemma in the October 1973 war of liberation. Israel had never taken into account the danger Arab unity represents. It began to do so, however, when Syria and Egypt met in the first Arab unionist experience in modern history; that is, the unity of 1958. Since then, Israel has made it one of its priorities to benefit from Arab fragmentation and disunity. Israel has also been capitalizing on Arab weakness and disunity in the interest of its aggressive ambitions, expansionist schemes, and plans to occupy Arab lands. Moreover, the Zionists and their proteges are striving to deepen the rift in the Arab arena, so that Arab unity cannot be established. Arab disunity, instead, will remain one of the weapons used and employed by Israel to occupy Arab lands and to replace the principal Arab nation-Zionist entity antithesis with Arab-Arab differences. The consequences of this would be to relegate the battle and conflict with this usurping, occupier enemy to a secondary or last rank on the list of priorities and tasks of the Arab countries. In this way, Israel will safeguard its existence and the expansion of this existence at the expense of the Arab nation, lands, and rights.

The bright, paramount truth which was revealed when our Arab masses looked with confidence, optimism, and hope upon the Damascus summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak is a truth that has always been affirmed by these masses through their sense of unity and struggle. This truth states that the meeting of Syria and Egypt, by every standard and yardstick, constitutes the concrete beginning of the next stage of Arab solidarity and a new step on the path of Arab unionist action, because such a meeting, under the present Arab circumstances, is bound to constitute the basis for stopping Arab degeneration. It will also be the cornerstone for any joint Arab action designed to face and confront the hostile schemes and imminent dangers looming in the Arab sky.

If the talks of President al-Asad and President Mubarak have led our masses to predict that a new era of Arab-Arab relations will prevail, this is due to the fact that Syria and Egypt, historically, have always been the strategic fulcrum in the Arabs' battles, their defense of their legitimate rights, and their struggle to regain what has been usurped of these rights. These struggles have

been part of the effort to create an invincible wall on which the Arab nation can find support while fighting the Zionist onslaught and protecting Arabs from the arrows of conspiracy, malignancy, and liquidation. At the same time they have been eliminating all elements of disunity and all manifestations of fragmentation and weakness that have almost destroyed Arab existence and have almost uprooted what could have enabled the Arab nation to remain steadfast and continue the struggle, and what could have provided it with all the means and ways to successfully liberate the Arab land and regain the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, will remain faithful to its pan-Arab commitment and pioneering Arab role. Moreover, Syria will not spare any effort or energy that might help in the defense of Arab dignity and in their future. Neither will it hesitate, under any circumstances, to make sacrifices or undertake courageous actions. Syria, furthermore, has exerted repeated efforts for the sake of the Arabs and their dignity, for the protection of their victories—safeguarding these victories with more closeness, cohesion, and solidarity—and for the unity of Arab ranks through additional determination and will to stand up to conspiracies, oppose all the capitulationist, liquidationist schemes, and foil them with unified Arab capability. Arab freedom lies in their strength; Arab strength lies in their unity; and only by their own self-created strength can Arabs regain rights and liberate lands.

Al-Shar' Discusses Hostages on U.S. TV Program

JN0605183890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] In Washington, a U.S. television network today carried an important interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Most of the questions and answers revolved around the issue of the hostages held in Lebanon. Our correspondent in Washington, Huda Tawfiq, summarized the interview:

[Huda Tawfiq] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has called on the United States to show goodwill by interceding with Israel for the release of the Lebanese hostages as a moral and humanitarian action, not as a deal in return for the release of Polhill and Frank Reed. Al-Shar' held the Israeli invasion of Lebanon fully responsible for the kidnappings. He said: Before the invasion, there was no hostage-taking. These operations were carried out as a reaction to the Israeli invasion and as a result of the suffering from repeated and daily Israeli attacks on Lebanon and the kidnappings.

This, the strongest Syrian message yet delivered to the United States, came during a television interview with al-Shar' from Damascus on the well-known Sunday program "Face the Nation." Al-Shar' did not, however, close the door on continued Syrian efforts, nor did he say that these efforts had been frozen. He has violently attacked U.S. claims that Syria is making these efforts because its relations with the USSR have begun to weaken and consequently needs American help.

Al-Shar' said: The United States' description of Syria's true objectives should be fair. This vanity [ghurur] coming from Washington hampers and harms Syrian efforts. He said that every U.S. official or nonofficial visitor to Damascus has sought President al-Asad's help in obtaining the release of the U.S. hostages.

Saudi Crown Prince Pays Official Visit

Arrives in Damascus 5 May

JN0505151190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, arrived in Damascus at 1400 this afternoon on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Heading those receiving him at Damascus international airport was Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Also greeting him at the aircraft were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus, Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi.

Meets With Al-Asad

LD0505211590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1847 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 5 May (SPA)—His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, received this evening—Saturday—in the palace of the Republic in Damascus His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, and the delegation accompanying him.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz held a closed meeting which was attended by His Excellency the deputy commander of the National Guard, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Tuwijri.

Brotherly relations between the two brotherly countries and the most important issues in the Arab and Islamic arena have been discussed during this meeting. Current international issues have also been reviewed.

Visits With Khaddam, Departs

JN0605135390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 May 90

[Excerpts] His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince of Saudi Arabia, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, and his delegation left Damascus at 1215 today following a two-day visit. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam was at the head of those who saw him off at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam had earlier visited His Highness Prince 'Abdallah at his place of residence in Tishrin Palace. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', members of the Saudi delegation accompanying his highness the prince, and the Saudi ambassador to Damascus. Khaddam and al-Shar' accompanied His Highness Prince 'Abdallah to Damascus international airport.

TISHRIN Cited on Mubarak, 'Abdallah Visits

JN0605072090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In "Behind the News" column and under the headline "Damascus Is the Pan-Arab Focal Point," the newspaper TISHRIN affirms in one of its commentaries that President Mubarak's Damascus visit and his two-day talks with President al-Asad have revived the nation's hopes for ending Arab disunity and fragmentation and also the spirit of the October liberation war, which laid the foundations for Arab solidarity and allowed the Arabs to occupy a prominent position.

TISHRIN adds: Prince 'Abdallah's Damascus visit also falls within the framework of this solidarity effort being made by Damascus.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says that the Arab horizon, from which the clouds of disunity and division have begun to disappear, is rich with pan-Arab promises. However, there is no alternative to making serious efforts. Likewise, there is no alternative to brushing aside trivialities and shouldering pan-Arab responsibilities.

Syrian-Soviet Economic, Technical Group Meets

Soviet Minister Arrives

JN0405134690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Damascus—Yuriy Semenov, Soviet minister of power and electrification and head of the Soviet side to the meeting of the permanent Syrian-Soviet committee for economic and technical cooperation, arrived here with his delegation at noon today on a week-long visit to Syria. Semenov was received at the airport by Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; the assistants to the minister of economy and foreign trade and the minister of state for planning affairs; the director general of the public sector's construction companies; and Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Aleksandr Zotov.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Semenov praised the existing friendly relations and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union. He also hailed President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, as well as the outcome of the president's visit to the Soviet Union. He added that he will hold several rounds of talks with Syrian officials on aspects of economic and trade cooperation between the two friendly countries and on ways to promote this cooperation.

Meetings Open 5 May

JN0505213890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 5 May (SANA)—The permanent Syrian-Soviet committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation held the general meeting of its 11th round here today in the presence of representatives of both sides.

The Syrian side was headed by Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs. The Soviet side was headed by Mr. Yuriy Semenov, minister of power and electrification, currently visiting Syria for this meeting.

The two sides reviewed the progress of the work of the sub-committees, namely, those for irrigation, energy, petrol, gas, and transport, and the companies for construction and scientific and technical cooperation. Agreements were reached on a number of development projects.

The two sides also discussed new projects proposed by Syria.

At the end of the meeting, the sub-committees resumed their work of defining the basic characteristics of cooperation and formulating new agreements between the two sides.

Dr. Baqjaji had earlier received the Soviet minister and his delegation in the presence of the staff of the Soviet Embassy in Damascus. He reviewed with him a number of basic topics on the agenda of the permanent committee.

During the meeting, the two ministers reaffirmed their joint desire to develop economic cooperation and promote exchange between the two countries to serve their joint interests.

Israel Said To Reject 'Real' Peace Initiatives

JN0405070990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Israeli Rejection, Again," TISHRIN says: Israel rejects even the slightest effort to achieve peace and accelerate the political solution process in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel destroys these efforts and obstructs endeavors toward a solution so that it may lay the groundwork for a policy which it plans to achieve by taking advantage of the regional and international atmospheres and by diverting attention from the dangers and repercussions of this policy. Israel also works to avoid all circumstances which may obstruct or postpone its implementation of this policy.

TISHRIN adds: These operations, which Israel calls "crawling and gnawing without fuss," show that Israel rejects all real peace initiatives.

Foreign Minister Receives Message From PRC

JN0505214990 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1650 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 5 May (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received a message here today from PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

The message was delivered by PRC Ambassador in Damascus Zhen Zhang when he was received by Mr. al-Shar'.

The message deals with developments in the region and issues of mutual interest.

Afghanistan

Keshtmand Decreed First Deputy President

LD0605160490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] The Presidential Office reports that a decree has been issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, about the introduction of a first deputy president. Here follows the text:

The presidential decree concerning the introduction of esteemed Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand as first deputy president:

In accordance with instruction of Paragraph 8, Article 81 of the Republic of Afghanistan Constitution I introduce esteemed Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, first deputy president. The Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan will make the necessary decision in this regard.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Najibullah Decree on Elections Commissions

LD0605170690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] The Presidential Office reports that a decree has been issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, about the formation of central and provincial elections commisisons. The decree has the following text:

The Presidential Decree on formation of a central commission and elections commissions for the provinces and their equivalent administrative units in order to elect representatives to the Grand Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan:

In accordance with the instructions of Paragraph 2, Article 66 of the Republic of Afghanistan Constitution and Paragraph 1, Article 14 of the Elections Law for the Grand Assembly, a Central Election Commission and elections commissions for the provinces and their equivalent adminstrative units should be formed.

1. The Central Election Commission should be formed with the following structure:

Esteemed Nezamuddin Tahzib, attorney general of the Republic of Afghanistan, as chairman.

Esteemed Sharafodin Sharaf, general prosecutor, vice chairman.

Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, deputy prime minister, member.

Waheb Safi, chairman of the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Afghanistan, member.

Esteemed Bashir Baghlani, minister of justice of the Republic of Afghanistan, member.

Esteemed Muhammad Sadiq Saylani, dean of the University of Islamic Science and Research and acting minister of Islamic affairs and endowment, member.

Ahmad Nabi, head of the councils affairs department of the Republic of Afghanistan, secretary.

2. The provincial election commissions and their equivalent administrative units should be formed with the following orders:

Head of the court of a province, chairman.

Head of education and training department, deputy chairman.

Prosecutor of a province, member.

Head of Islamic affairs department of a province, member.

And chairman of the National Front Provincial Council, member.

[signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Hizbollah Group Refutes Legitimation Claim

LD0405210290 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 4 May 90

[Text Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., May 4, IRNA—Organisation of the Islamic Hizbollah in Afghanistan on Friday [4 May] refuted claim of the Kabul regime that it has issued an official permission allowing activity of this organisation in Afghanistan.

"This sheer lie aims at making the organisations and parties fighting against the Kabul regime vulnerable," the organisation said in a statement received by IRNA here referring to a Kabul radio report last Wednesday [2 May] claiming that Najibullah's regime has allowed formal activity of the Hizbollah organisation. 'This is part of the conspiracy of the arrogant power against Islam and Islamic movements,' added the statement.

The organisation also urged Afghan mujahideen to escalate their attacks on Kabul regimes forces irrespective of such lies.

Government Buys Three Missiles From Rebels

LD0405144290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1330 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] In accordance with decree No. 204 dated 10 October 1987 the state security organs of Helmand Province have recently purchased three Strella-2 type surface-to-air missiles from opposition groups in this province.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that the purchase prices of these missiles was paid to the other side in view of the decree.

Regime Offensive in Jalalabad Pushes Rebels Back

BK0505133490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, May 5 (AFP)—Afghan regime forces, in a new ground and air attack in the eastern Jalalabad area, have pushed back the mujahidin from the beleagured city's northern edge, resistance sources said here Saturday [5 May]. They said in four days of heavy fighting, the mujahidin lost considerable ground as the government troops overran at least four strategic posts. About a dozen guerrilla fighters were killed or wounded in the attack, they said. The resistance also launched a counter offensive, killing seven Afghan soldiers and destroying one tank in the sector of Surkhrud, they said.

The attack in Jalalabad also coincided with fighting around the eastern Khowst garrison where 10 more Afghan soldiers defected to the mujahidin, the sources said.

They said the government was using a new type of aircraft in addition to heavy weaponry in raiding the guerrilla bases in Jalalabad.

The fresh offensive launched May 1 continued with jets repeatedly bombing precise mujahidin targets, Abdul Wahab, a pro-resistance eyewitness told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

"I counted 15 air raids during my three-hour stay on Thursday [3 May]," he said.

"Perhaps the regime has inducted new type of aircraft," he said, adding that the resistance suspected "the brand new planes" operating in the area could be MiG-29s.

The regime troops capturing the Kama Bridge entered the town of Kama some 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the garrison city, the sources said. Other resistance sources said the mujahidin were earlier positioned on the northern side of the bridge while the regime militia controlled its southern fringe on the road linking Jalalabad with Kunar. The troops were just outside Kama mounting pressure to recapture the town of Khewa, they said.

The guerrillas captured Kama, Khewa and Behsud in the first major assault in March 1988 that targeted Jalalabad two weeks after the Soviet troops had left Afghanistan. The government forces, dug in the city perimeters, did not allow its fall.

The latest attack appeared to be the regime's first serious attempt since then to end the resistance's threat to the city, Afghan observers said. It came early on May Day when the resistance fighters were not yet in full strength after last week's Eid festival marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, another source said.

The rebels, suspecting the Soviets were responsible for the "accurate bombings," said unlike the past, "we did not catch the pilots radio conversation with ground bases." The pilots hitting the targets from very high altitude, did not even talk among themselves, one source said.

They said they believed after the failed coup of March 6 that the Afghan Air Force was nearly paralysed, as its chief was also among the coup plotters headed by Defence Minister General Shahnawaz Tanai.

It appeared that the regime had obtained fresh Soviet advice and expertise to reorganize its air force that is again active, a spokesman for the Hezb-e Eslami (Khalis) said.

Western diplomats here, however, said they had no immediate report that the Soviets could be piloting the Afghan jets.

'Extremists' Fire Five Missiles at Kabul

LD0505164790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Five U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles were fired at Kabul's residential area. The Pakistani-backed extremists today martyred one of our compatriots and injured another two people.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reported that those injured in this mishap were quickly taken to a hospital and put under intensive care. As a result of these missiles fired from the environs of Kabul city, material losses also resulted.

State Security Operations in Kabul Detailed

LD0505172390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] In order to prevent terrorist actions by the Pakistani-backed extremists, the Ministry of State Security organs carried out yesterday and today mopping-up operations in the environs of Kabul Province. BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reported that as a result of these mopping-up operations, 30 kg of explosives and four (?mozael)-type surface-to-surface missiles were seized in the environs of Paghman District. Two Sakr-20 U.S.-made [as heard] surface-to-surface missiles, six Mozael-type surface-to-surface missiles, and an antivehicle mine were seized by the security forces in the environs of Koh-e Safi mountain.

State Security Carries Out Jabal Os Saraj Ambush

LD0505173190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] In carrying out an ambush in the environs of Jabal os Saraj District, Ministry of State Security personnel in Parvan Province crushed a group of extremists. BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reported that as a result of this ambush, eight light machine guns and two heavy machine guns, 20 mountain mortars, and hundreds of various types of ammunition were seized.

*Najibullah Escapes Assassination Attempt

90AS0042A London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 90 pp 1-2

[Text] 'Abdol-Vahid, commander of one of the units of Jamiyat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] in Herat, announced last week that mujahidin fighters belonging to Jamiyat-e Eslami carried out an attack intended to kill Dr. Najibullah, president of the Kabul communist government, ignoring the surrender ceremonies for a group of government opponents. 'Abdol-Vahid Mokhles said that 5,000 [as published] mujahidin fighters aided by Haji Malang, who had surrendered to government forces previously and then secretly aided the mujahidin afterwards, penetrated the crowd that had gathered for these ceremonies, and as soon as Fazel Haq Khaliqyar, Herat commander, stepped out of a helicopter and embraced one of the so-called surrendering individuals, they hit him with a hail of gunfire. Dr. Najibullah, president of the republic, was to have attended these ceremonies personally, and the mujahidin shot at Fazel Khaliqyar, the Herat commander, instead of Najibullah. For unknown reasons, Najibullah did not attend these ceremonies.

At these ceremonies, 10,000 Afghani people had gathered to declare their allegiance to the Kabul government, and in addition to the government officials and army commanders in the Herat area, a number of foreign news reporters had been invited to take part in the "surrender" ceremonies for government opponents, but they arrived at the site after the clash between the Mujahidin, who had penetrated the ceremonies, and the government protectors had begun.

Reports from last week stated that only 12 persons were killed in this incident, but according to the latest reports the number of persons killed was 130, including Lieutenant-General Jalal Razmandeh, acting minister of security, and Major-General Ya'qub Khan.

Abdol-Vahid Mokhles announced that two of the five mujahidin fighters who penetrated the crowd were also killed, and Haji Malang was probably also killed in the clash.

The Afghan mujahidin characterize ceremonies of this kind for opponents of the Kabul government as a public display, and they claim that the Kabul regime organizes this type of ceremony as a part of its propaganda program.

14 Killed in Kabul

On Thursday (12 April) REUTER reported from Kabul that a rocket fired by Mujahidin forces into a Kabul residential area killed 14 persons, 12 of whom were grade-school children. According to this report, the mujahidin rocket landed near a bus stop where the school children were waiting.

The firing of rockets by the Afghan mujahidin into Kabul residential areas has always met with opposition, because, in the view of the political experts, this will turn the families of ordinary people who are hit by these rockets against the mujahidin.

*Najibullah's New Reconciliation Plan Announced

90AS0042B London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Shah 'Ali Akbar Shahrestani, chief of the Afghan delegation at the 83rd meeting of the Inter-group Unity Assembly, held in Nicosia from 2-7 April, announced the main outlines of the plan of Dr. Najibullah, the Afghan communist president of the republic. He said that to end the civil war in Afghanistan he proposes a six-month cease fire, the formation of a coalition government of several parties, and finally the holding of free elections. Based on this plan, there will be a special committee to draw up a new constitution and a new Afghanistan election law, and the public elections will be held under the supervision of an international commission.

The Afghan mujahidin groups have not yet announced their reaction to Dr. Najibullah's plan.

India

Troops Reportedly Kill Two Pakistani Soldiers

BK0605045690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0441 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 6 (AFP)—Indian troops have killed two Pakistani soldiers during a gunbattle along the Line of Control dividing the disputed territory of Kashmir, the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) reported Sunday [6 May]. The Indian Defence Ministry could not confirm the report, saying it would check with Army officers in northern India's Jammu and Kashmir state.

UNI, in a brief dispatch from the state's winter capital Jammu, said the two soldiers died Saturday [5 May] when Indian forces responded to "unprovoked firing" by Pakistani troops in the border district of Poonch. The gunbattle erupted after Indian soldiers objected to the construction of bunkers in no man's land by the Pakistani soldiers, UNI quoted official reports as saying.

After the Indian security forces returned fire, the Pakistanis were seen carrying away two bodies and three injured soldiers, the news agency said, without disclosing whether Indian troops suffered any casualties in the exchange.

The 2,000-kilometre (1,200-mile) Line of Control, which demarcates the Indian and Pakistani sectors of Kashmir and Punjab, is heavily militarised on both sides and the troops often exchange fire.

Relations between India and Pakistan, who have fought three wars since 1947, have neared crisis this year after a campaign against Indian control in Muslim-majority Kashmir gained momentum in December. But both countries deny that they have been massing troops along their common border.

Reportage on Fighting in Kashmir

Eight 'Subversives,' Four Others Killed

BK0505032890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] In Kashmir, eight subversives were killed yesterday in two separate incidents, seven of them while trying to cross over the border into India. A huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered. One militant was killed in a rural area of Anantnag District.

In another incident, three persons were killed in a cross-fire in Nawakadal area of Srinagar city. One CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] constable was killed and three injured when subversives opened fire at a Police Line squad at Khwaja Bazar and Khaniar areas in Srinagar city. Security forces arrested over 100 subversives, including 19 suspected to be involved in the killings of Chaudhry Mohiuddin and Sarvanand Kaul Premi.

Srinagar Curfew Relaxed

BK0605080190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew in Srinagar city has been relaxed for nine hours from 0900 this morning except in the police station areas of Gharial, (Asafkadal), Maharaj Ganj, and Sowaran. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the valley so far.

Security forces killed four militants in an encounter last night in Harware area. Two AK-47 rifles and two pistols were recovered from them. With this, 17 militants have been killed in the valley during the last 36 hours, besides arresting 27, including a top militant. One constable of the BSF [Border Security Force] and a doctor of the force were killed in an encounter with the militants yesterday near the line of actual control.

Srinagar Government Offices Reopening

BK0705030690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the Civil Secretariat and 41 state government offices are reopening in the summer capital Srinagar today. These offices were closed down in the winter capital Jammu on the 30th of last month. About 1,200 officials who have left their families in Jammu have been provided hostel-type accomodation in Srinagar with all security arrangements. The governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, inspected the arrangements in the buildings in Srinagar yesterday. The state as well as central government offices in Srinagar will function from 0900 to 1600. There will be no curfew in Srinagar from 0800 this morning to 1800 in the evening.

Meanwhile, several decisions were taken for effective coordination between the Jammu and Kashmir government, the Army, and the central police organizations in dealing with subversives in the state at a high-level meeting at the Northern Command Headquarters in Udhampur yesterday.

A high-level central team yesterday held discussions with the state administrations of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir on steps to be taken to seal the border and check infiltration of subversive and terrorist elements. At the meeting at Udhampur and Chandigarh, the existing situation was reviewed and various decisions were taken to achieve more effective coordination among the state governments, central police organizations, and the Army in dealing with the continuing infiltration and induction of weapons. The meetings were called in pursuance of the directive of the prime minister on taking effective steps to check infiltration of terrorists from across the border.

Minister Discusses 'Strategy'

BK0505155990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] The center is evolving a multipronged strategy to resolve the Kashmir issue. The minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, Mr. George Fernandes, disclosed this to newsmen at Gunutur in Andhra Pradesh today. Mr. Fernandes said that the strategy comprises restoration of political process and efforts to wean away the people from insurgency and violence and win their confidence. The minister observed that continued failure of law and order, corruption, and the misuse of funds meant for developmental activities in the state have forced the youth to become militant. Though corruption and violence exist in some other parts of the country also, they had never come to the level prevalent in Kashmir, he added.

Mr. Fernandes accused Pakistan of trying to fish in troubled waters. He said political activity has to be started before restoration of the political process in the state.

Security Forces Seize Arms

BK0605161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] In Kashmir, security forces today seized yet another cache of arms and ammunition at two places near Kotwara in the five km belt along the border. These include 71 hand grenades, 18 antipersonnel mines, two antitank mines, two rocket launchers, 30 electronic detonators, about 1,600 rounds besides pistols and rifles. Yesterday also, large quantities of arms and ammunition were recovered from this area.

In Vanpura village of Tehsil Handwara, important documents about the terrorist network in Kashmir have been recovered from the car in which four top terrorists were moving before they were killed in an encounter with the security forces late last night. In Khwaja Bazaar area of Srinagar city, five top militants were arrested today during searches and arms and ammunition recovered from them.

Life in Srinagar and other towns in the valley was normal with traffic and business establishments functioning normally. There will be no curfew in Srinagar City from 0800-1800 tomorrow.

'Radical' Muslim Women's Group Banned

BK0405102490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Jammu, India, May 4 (AFP)—Indian authorities have outlawed a radical women's group in Kashmir and shut its offices throughout the northern state in a stepped-up crackdown on militant groups, an official spokesman said Thursday [3 May]. The police outlawed Dakhtarane Millet or Daughters of Faith organisation late Thursday and ordered its offices to shut, accusing the group of being a wing of the militant Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), he said.

The official said the Millet leader, Aasiyeh Andrabi, who lives in the group headquarters in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, had not been arrested. "No one from the group has been arrested or jailed," the spokesman said, adding that the Millet was the ninth militant outfit in Kashmir to be banned since April 1.

Thursday's ban follows police allegations that the Millet, with an enrolled membership of 70,000 Kashmiri women, was "indulging in subversive and terrorist activities," the state administration spokesman said. The Millet was banned two months after Ms. Andrabi, a graduate, urged Kashmiri women to carry sharp daggers or pistols to kill Indian security men to defend their honour during raids on their homes.

Kashmir's only women's social organisation, the Millet was formed in 1987 with the aim of urging local women to vigorously embrace the Muslim way of life and since December has urged its members to join the escalating campaign against India's control of this region which Pakistan disputes. The group has charged Indian paramilitary troopers with mass rape of Kashmiri girls and attacks on pregnant women and children. Authorities have admitted to a few excesses, but deny the widespread charges.

Meanwhile the spokesman in Jammu, where the Indian administration is now headquartered, said security forces late Thursday shot dead a senior Muslim militant in southern Anantnag town during a search operation. Fifty four other militants were arrested throughout the Muslim-dominated Kashmir Valley Thursday, the spokesman said, adding that 32 of them, including a senior JKLF activist, were from the Kashmir border Uri sector. Indian intelligence agencies suspect Muslim militants of using Uri as a corridor to slip into neighbouring Pakistan for weapons, and New Delhi Thursday announced it would fence off strategic sectors near the border.

At least 450 people have died so far this year in violence linked to the flaring Muslim campaign for Kashmir's indepedence from India. New Delhi blames Islamabad for fanning the unrest in this disputed state, a charge vehemently denied by Pakistan.

U.S. Super 301 Trade Provisions Rejected

'Naked' Aggression Alleged

BK0405160390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] India has firmly ruled out any negotiations with the United States on Super 301 trade act under the threat of retaliation. Replying to supplementaries on a call-attention motion in the Lok Sabha today, the commerce minister, Mr. Arun Nehru, declared that India will not yield to any pressure on it to cut its multilateral action. During the discussion on the motion moved by Mr. P.K. Brahmbhatt of the Janata Dal and four others, members cutting across party lines criticized the U.S. decision to single out India on the issue. They urged the government not to succumb to any pressure in the face of what they described as a naked economic aggression by the United States on India.

In his reply, Mr. Arun Nehru asserted that India is committed to the multilateral process. It wants best relations with all the countries, and whatever agreements are to be made should be on mutual self-respect. He criticized the restrictive trade practices adopted by Washington. He said another reason why India should not be on the Super 301 hit list is that it has as many as 196 collaborations with American firms, accounting for over 20 percent of India's joint ventures. Mr. Nehru described as unfair the U.S. move wanting India to remove all controls on private sector investment and change insurance laws so as to allow access to foreign firms. He, however, added that since Washington has not actually imposed any restrictions on India's exports, the matter is not yet ripe for taking up at the GATT.

Radio Commentary

BK0405112690 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 May 90

[Commentary by Girish Chandra, FINANCIAL EXPRESS special correspondent: "Indo-U.S. Trade Relations and Super 301"]

[Text] Over the years, the United States of American has been India's leading trading partner, accounting for almost 19 percent of its non-oil exports and more than 11 percent of its imports in 1988. However, India accounted for less than 0.6 percent of U.S. total imports and about one percent of U.S. total exports in 1988. Also, the USA has been the largest investment partner of India. U.S. companies account for one-fifth of the joint ventures approved by the Government of India since 1947, and 75 percent of these are in the manufacturing sector. The U.S. private investment in India is currently estimated at around $600 million.

However, these healthy economic and trade relations between the world's two largest democracies started (?souring) since May last year when the U.S. Trade Representative identified India, Brazil, and Japan as three priority countries for action under Super 301 provisions of the U.S. Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act 1988. The priority trade barrier identified in respect of India are one, trade related investment measures in India that prohibit or burden foreign investment with export obligation and two, barriers to trade in services, specifically the closure of India's insurance market to foreign insurance companies.

On 16 June 1989, the U.S. Trade Representative initiated investigations of the priority trade barriers in order to determine whether they are actionable under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act. Under another section of the same act, known as Special 301 Provision, the U.S. Trade Representative has not named any priority country, but has established a priority watch list of eight countries, namely India, Brazil, Republic of Korea, Mexico, China, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, and Thailand, and announced its intention to seek progress bilaterally in a number of areas for each offense. In respect of India, improved and adequate patent protection, elimination of discrimination against use of foreign trademark, registration of service marks, effective protection of well-known marks and improved access, and distribution for U.S. motion pictures have been identified.

What has aggravated the matter was the announcement in Washington on 27 April when President Bush retained only India on his hit list of unfair traders. At the same time, the U.S. Administration has dropped both Brazil and Japan from the hit list in view of the progress in their trade negotiations with the U.S. This has left only India on the hit list, facing prospects of trade sanctions like higher tariffs, as much as 100 percent for its goods in American market. The U.S. Administration has already fixed 16th of next month as the date by which it will take a decision as to whether it would retaliate or not.

The Government of India has taken a strong public position against the U.S. decisions. The government has repeatedly stated that it will not negotiate under threat of retaliation, which is inherent in the 301 provision. However, it has been pointed out that some of the issues raised by the U.S. side have been on the agenda of some bodies, as the Indo-U.S. Economic and Commercial Subcommission, and the dialogue will continue provided the threat of retaliation is lifted. Further, issues such as trade in services, trade-related investment measures, and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights are included in the agenda of Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations currently under way.

By seeking concessions bilaterally in these areas, the USA has undermined the multilateral process. It is felt unless the U.S. renounces its unilateral approach, the Uruguay negotiations cannot make any useful progress. By initiating investigations under its laws, the U.S. has brought about some uncertainty in India's export trade. There is a real threat to our exports to the United States. Both India and the United States are contracting parties of GATT, which requires prior authorization before any retaliatory step is taken against trade in goods. By ignoring this provision, the U.S. is endangering the multilateral trading system. By seeking to obtain concessions from India under coercion in these areas, the U.S. has put these negotiations in jeopardy.

Further Reportage on 4 May ABD Annual Meeting

Afghan Minister Criticizes Ban

BK0405122090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 4 (AFP)—Afghanistan's Finance Minister Hamidullah Tarzi hit out at Western countries and multilateral agencies Friday [4 May] for cutting off loans and aid to Kabul. Speaking after the closing of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) annual meeting here, Mr. Tarzi said the bank's policy was controlled by Washington. He accused Japan of being "an accomplice of the United States."

Earlier, in one of the most strongly worded speeches delivered to ADB delegates, Mr. Tarzi said the ADB's suspension of loans to Afghanistan was "a regrettable misstep into the quagmire of anachronistic obstructionist policies based on non-economic factors." He appealed to the bank to reverse its decision and invited the president and the board of directors to visit Kabul to "see for themselves" what the country has achieved "in spite of all these obstacles."

The ADB should "give priority to assistance for the poorest, most needy members," including Afghanistan, Mr. Tarzi said. Afghanistan badly needs loans to prop up its currency, remedy its balance of payments crisis and import essential consumer goods, he said.

He said after the conference that he and Central Bank Governor Mohamed Kabir would meet with ADB President Kimimasa Tarumizu later Friday for talks on loans to Afghanistan.

ADB officials said Afghanistan has been cut off from ADB lending for more than 12 years because of the country's poor economic and security environment. However, Mr. Tarzi insisted the real reason was because of politics and Kabul's ties with the Soviet Union. He alleged that former ADB President Masao Fujioka told Mr. Kabir last year that the bank "would take into account the political situation" in deciding whether to resume lending to Kabul.

Mr. Tarzi appealed to the bank to release soft loans to Afghanistan from the Asian Development Fund and to stop making politically motivated decisions. On Thursday [3 May], China and India also appealed to the ADB not to

make decisions based on political considerations, insisting that it was contrary to the charter of the bank.

Afghanistan is a founding member of the ADB. It has received slightly more than 27 million dollars from the bank since it was established in 1966, although nearly three times that figure had been approved before the Soviet Union's intervention in 1979.

The Afghan currency has deteriorated sharply against the dollar in recent years, falling to an unofficial level of 700 Afghanis to the dollar against a government-fixed rate of 50 to the dollar. Inflation in Kabul is also running at 15 per cent in spite of government controls on basic commodity prices, and the country's per capita gross national product is just 150 dollars per year, Mr. Tarzi said. He said the government has initiated market reforms and relies heavily on the country's private sector. He listed lower customs duties, incentives to lure foreign and domestic investors and the easing of restrictions on foreign exchange transactions as examples of Kabul's free-market policies.

Repeating his invitation to ADB officials to visit Kabul, Mr. Tarzi said he would "personally guarantee their security" in the city, referring to publicly expressed fears that foreign delegations could be at risk in Afghanistan.

Mr. Tarzi has been finance minister for two years. He comes from one of Afghanistan's oldest, most distinguished families and was trained as an economist at the University of California, Berkeley.

Vietnam Seeks Loans

BK0405141890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1356 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 4 (AFP)—Vietnam touted its recent economic reforms before the Asian Development Bank here Friday [4 May], presenting its "legitimate request" for the resumption of bank loans suspended for more than 10 years. The Vietnamese governor on the ADB board, Nguyen Ngoc Minh, told delegates at the annual ADB meeting here that his country had "started its economic reforms to cope with economic difficulties and errors as a consequence of a system of subsidized economic management that existed for decades." He said Vietnam was looking now to remove a "bureaucratic system of management and turn the economy into a more efficient and market-related one." Mr. Minh said the profitability of state enterprises "now becomes the watchword for efficiency." The private sector currently contributes 40 per cent of gross domestic product, he said.

"For the first time in decades Vietnam not only has been self-sufficient in food but also has surplus for exports," he said. He said Vietnam will continue its economic restructuring, but reforms will not advance quickly without external aid.

"We hope the bank will consider our legitimate request for assistance through its concrete action in order to normalize relations with Vietnam," Mr. Minh said.

Several countries, particularly India and China, have condemned the attitude of the ADB. They said it has rejected the requests of countries where it does not approve of their economic or political policies.

Singh Invites Nepalese Premier for Talks

BK0405160090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] The prime minister of Nepal, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, has been invited to New Delhi for talks by Mr. V.P. Singh. The invitation by the prime minister has been extended through the finance minister of Nepal, Mr. Devendra Raj Pandey, who was in New Delhi today attend the Asian Development Bank meeting.

Dr. Pandey, who returned to Kathmandu today, told our correspondent there that the visit is expected to take place very soon.

Bangladesh Refugee Influx Reaches 'New High'

BK0705014490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0137 GMT 7 May 90

[By Shantanu Ray]

[Text] Agartala, India, May 7 (AFP)—The influx of tribespeople from Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill tracts has reached a new high, jeopardising efforts to normalise strained relations between New Delhi and Dhaka. Indian officials estimate that 15,000 Buddhist tribespeople belonging to the Chakma and Larma tribes have crossed into the northeastern state of Tripura since February, when Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral visited Dhaka. The total number of refugees is now 85,000, they said.

During Mr. Gujral's visit, the two sides agreed that the tribespeople should be repatriated and their lives protected after their return. The refugees allege bloody attacks on them by soldiers of the Bangladesh Rifles and Bengali Muslim settlers, sent to the hill tracts by Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad under a mass rehabilitation programme.

More than 3,000 tribespeople, mostly women and children, have been reported killed and over 250 villages devastated over six years of violence which started in early 1984 over sharing of land in the hill tracts.

"Even mines or a sealed border cannot keep them off," said Dharamvir Singh of the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) which on an average day prevents the entry of at least 200 tribespeople over the state's 839-kilometre-long border with Bangladesh. Alarmed by the mass influx, New Delhi has decided to construct a barbed wire fence and set up a no-man's land along Tripura's border with Bangladesh. Work is expected to start in August.

New Delhi spends 120 million rupees (seven million dollars) a year to run the makeshift camps in Tripura's

bordering districts and has repeatedly urged Dhaka to take back the tribespeople, but the refugees have refused to leave, fearing renewed attacks. Serious differences remain between the two neighbours over the number of tribespeople in India. While Dhaka maintains the total number could not be more than 30,000, New Delhi puts the figure at 85,000 and says more are arriving daily despite increased vigilance by the BSF.

Dhaka also accuses Delhi of providing sanctuary to Shanti Bahini guerrillas, the armed wing of the tribals, who have over the years killed more than 500 soldiers and Bengali Muslim settlers in hit-and-run attacks.

At Lebacherra village, bordering Bangladesh in south Tripura, visiting journalists were escorted around camps that housed tribespeople after their arrival from the trouble-torn hill tracts.

"We cannot provide shelter to all, but feel sorry after seeing their plight," said Uttam Roy, in charge of the Lebacherra camp. Mr. Roy said his men were facing immense difficulties in running the camps because of the unabated influx that upset the budget allocated by New Delhi. On average, 11 people are allotted to a single tent in five villages on the border housing an estimated 65,000 people. The rest, yet to be formally enrolled for rations and medicine, live on borrowed food on the outskirts of the villages.

Living a life of uncertainty amid concentrated poverty, the tribals said they would return but only after the "last soldier has returned to the barracks."

"The Shanti Bahini does not have the power to drive out Ershad's soldiers. As long as the soldiers continue their offensive against the guerrillas, the tribals will be the worst-affected in the cross-fire," said Bhagya Chandra Chakma. Mr. Chakma is chairman of the Humanity Protection Forum, a Tripura-based organisation that is demanding continued shelter for the tribespeople in India on humanitarian grounds.

Bhrigu Larma, another tribesman, told journalists: "The Bangladesh Government wants us to leave our village. The Indian gOvernment is now sealing the border. Where will we go? We are doomed."

He said he had travelled more than 250 kilometres (150 miles) to reach the camp after Bangladesh Rifles soldiers burned down his wooden house during a midnight raid and threw the bullet-ridden bodies of his wife and two sons into the blaze.

Over the years, Dhaka has despatched thousands of troops to the Chittagong District, most of whom remain engaged almost throughout the year in occasional skirmishes with the guerrillas waging a low-intensity campaign marked by occasional exchanges of mortar and artillery fire.

Observers here rule out any settlement between the guerrillas and Dhaka and say the violence will continue unless the soldiers stop attacks on tribespeople.

"The question I would like to ask Mr. Ershad is—when will his men stop this brutal display of force on hapless, peace-loving people?" asked Tripura State Chief Minister Sudhir Ranjan Mazumdar. Talking to journalists at his residence in the state capital, the chief minister said the mass infiltration was seriously straining the state's limited economic resources and ethnic relations as another 15,000 Hindu families have crossed over the border and settled in areas demarcated for the state's tribals. "The day is not far when Tripura will have more Bangladeshis than Indians," Mr. Mazumdar said.

Dalai Lama 'Has No Plans' To Visit Thailand

BK0405135690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1342 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 4 (AFP)—The Dalai Lama has no plans to visit Thailand this month, his office here said in a press statement Friday [4 May], in response to reports of rising tension between China and Thailand over the proposed visit. The announcement by a private Thai religious foundation that it had invited the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader to visit in May brought protests from Beijing and considerable embarrassment to Buddhist Thailand.

"The Dalai Lama's program is full until the end of the year. He had not given a definite reply to the invitation and had not applied for a visa," a spokesman for the Dalai Lama's office said in an interview here.

"We put out the statement because of all the press reports saying he might be going to Thailand," the spokesman added. A brief statement from the Dalai Lama's office said there was "no plan for his holiness the Dalai Lama to visit Thailand this month as reported in sections of the press."

"We are however aware of the keen public desire to invite his holiness and the usual Chinese protests," the statement said.

China's ambassador to Thailand, Li Shichun, last Friday [27 April] told Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan that Beijing opposed a visit by the Dalai Lama, whom it views as an anti-Beijing activist and a symbol of nationalist dissidence in Tibet. Thailand's state news agency subsequently reported that Bangkok had told Beijing it was "offended" by such pressure.

As the debate continued this week, top Thai security officials indicated that the visit would not be permitted, while other senior officials said they would meet next week to decide the issue.

The 54-year-old monk—who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year—was first invited to visit Thailand, which has close ties with China, in 1987. He was barred from entering the country by the government of then Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, which cited a possible rupture in Sino-Thai relations.

Police Launch 'Major Hunt' for Delhi Bomber

BK0405095890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0850 GMT 4 May 90

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] New Delhi, May 4 (AFP)—The police have launched a major hunt for bombers responsible for a rash of explosions in the Indian capital amid suspicions the bloody attacks were carried out by either Sikh or Kashmiri separatists. The 51,000-strong New Delhi Police Department said all the city's 70 police stations are engaged in the hunt for the unknown bombers, believed to have infiltrated the city to bring their violent regional political campaigns to the capital.

The bombings began April 5 when blasts rocked two vital New Delhi police stations, and in the next three weeks explosions in three state-owned city buses killed 10 people and seriously injured dozens of other commuters. The police, who have solved only a single series of bomb blasts since June 1985 in the capital, launched what is described as their biggest operation to prevent future explosions and a hunt for the bombers.

"We have a publicity budget of five million rupees (294,000 dollars) and we are now using it to create mass awareness among the people... We tell them not to pick up unclaimed baggage, remove packets from streets and to help the police," a police spokesman said.

"Is your tenant a terrorist? ... Is he a ruthless killer? Please verify your tenant's identity before letting out your house," a police advertisement that now appears almost daily in newspapers warns.

Specially selected senior police officers began appearing on national television Thursday [3 May] asking people not to touch unclaimed objects and report to the police "suspicious-looking people".

"When police officers appear on the television, people actually watch and that is why they have replaced the announcers," spokesman Ravi Pawar said Friday as authorities gave civilian conductors of the city's 5,000 buses powers to search passengers' handbags. Armed constables daily are seen frisking women's purses and men's briefcases in buses at major city intersections and authorities have clamped a blanket ban on carrying anything larger than wallets inside cinemas and other public buildings. Even luxury hotels here are now reluctant to accept parcels for room guests, insisting on checking the identity of package bearers first, and residents in several residential complexes have formed vigilante groups.

The city's crime branch detectives say the series of explosions could have been the work of either Muslim or Sikh militants of the troubled northern states of Kashmir and Punjab, both scenes of bloody secessionist campaigns.

"We have some definite clues," a top Crime Branch officer said, adding the hunt was one of the largest since a 1985 series of booby-trap bombs killed dozens of people in the city. Those bombs were traced to Sikh militants.

The spokesman said the detectives were now certain that it was also Sikh militants who planted the bombs in the two West Delhi police stations, but were not too sure about the bombings of the city buses.

In one case the police found large quantities of explosive detonators in a bus, but the random searches have paid other bizarre dividends in the shape of unexplained money, caches of illicit home-brew and in one instance stolen undergarments.

Sikh separatists have since 1983 been waging a bloody campaign for a Sikh homeland called Khalistan or land of the pure in the Punjab, while a militant-led Muslim campaign is under way in Kashmir against Indian rule in the frontier state.

Punjab TV Tower Damaged in Rocket Attack

BK0505090490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists made an abortive attempt to blow up the Jullundhur television tower in a rocket attack early this morning. According to an agency report from Jullundhur, terrorists fired three rockets in a bid to blow up the television tower at (Khulrakingra). Two rockets missed the tower, while the third landed on the first floor damaging some glasspanes. The report says the area has been cordoned off and an intensive search has been launched for miscreants.

Iran

Karrubi Says No Relations With U.S. Planned

LD0605102690 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 6 May 90

[Excerpts] Tehran, May 5 [date as received], IRNA—A top-ranking official Sunday [6 May] strongly lashed out at the U.S. and stressed, "America is the enemy of Islam, the revolution and people."

Addressing today's open session of the Majles, speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi reiterated, "No one can establish relations with America". [passage omitted] He further emphasised that the release of the two American hostages by Lebanese Muslims, as reiterated in Ayatollah Khamene'i's recent message, was according to divine rules and Islamic insight and had nothing to do with the U.S.

"It seems that American statesmen have forgotten how much they and their country are hated by our people," Karrubi said.

He added that the hostage issue was not a new subject, noting that Iranian officials while expressing their opposition to hostage taking had always announced readiness to employ their influence for the release of Western hostages.

"We have repeatedly addressed Western statesmen to use their influence for the release of Iranian, Lebanese and Palestinian hostages," said Karrubi.

To this end, he added, Iranian and Lebanese Muslim mujahideen took the initiative and helped the release of two American hostages.

But, Karrubi stressed, following the release of the hostages, the U.S. instead of proving its good-will, awarded the commander of the U.S. fleet "Vincennes" (which shot down an Iranian passenger plane in June 1988).

Moreover, the U.S. put Iran atop the list of countries supporting terrorism and even more impudently attempted to accuse Tehran of having deployed chemical weapons in Halabjah (a Kurdish town in Iraq's Sulaimaniyeh Province).

"As long as America is plotting against the Islamic world and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the issue of negotiation between Iran and the U.S. will not be discussed," concluded the speaker.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi's remarks were confirmed by Majles representatives who chanted "Death to America".

Paper Stresses Iran's 'Humanitarian Convictions'

NC0605122590 Paris AFP in English 1208 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 6 (AFP)—Iranian parliamentary speaker Mahdi Karrubi on Sunday dismissed reports that his country was seeking to renew relations with Washington, adding that Iranians hated the United States.

"This is wishful thinking. No one has ever thought, or will think, of establishing relations with the U.S.," he told MPs about Washington's demand that a resumption of ties be conditional on the freeing of Western hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

"America is the enemy of Islam" and U.S. politicians have forgotten "how much they and their country are hated by our people", he declared.

He reiterated Iranian calls that the United States exert its influence on Israel to release Iranian, Lebanese and Palestinian hostages held by Israeli forces and their allies in south Lebanon.

Tehran has demanded the release of four missing Iranians captured by Lebanese Christian militia in 1982.

It has also sought information about Muslims held by Israel, including Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, said to be the leader of the pro-Iranian Hizballah group, who was seized last July by Israeli commandos in Lebanon.

Mr. Karrubi rejected claims his country needed to re-establish relations with the United States to help rejuvenate a faltering post-war economy.

"Some Westerners instead of admiring Iranian humanitarian efforts have interpreted them as signs of weakness saying Iran's needs for Western help in reconstruction had forced Iran to help free the hostages," the Tehran Times said.

The English-language daily considered a mouthpiece for President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said in an editorial that Iran had "acted out of humanitarian convictions and its motives had nothing to do with reconstruction needs or any political deal.

"Besides, the Lebanese groups held only 15 hostages, while the Israelis and the (Lebanese Christian) Phalangists are keeping hundreds of Muslim hostages," the paper said. "Who should take the first step?"

The 15 Western hostages currently believed held in Lebanon include six Americans, many of whom are said to be in the hands of pro-Iranian factions.

The Iranian official and media campaign comes after the release of U.S. hostages Robert Polhill and Frank Reed on April 22 and 30.

Iran, which has claimed credit for helping to free them, threatened last week to halt further efforts towards freeing hostages unless Washington responded with a goodwill gesture.

Students Rally To Support Khamene'i Remarks

Resolution Issued

LD0605171290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Following the recent remarks made by the honorable leader [Khamene'i] about rejecting any kind of direct discussions with the United States, this afternoon students of universities in Tehran staged a rally, announcing their decisive support for the esteemed leader. [background chanting of slogans]

According to our correspondent's report, the students, after marching through Enqelab and Taleqani Avenues, gathered in front of the former U.S. Embassy. According to the same report, after a speech made by one of the members of the Islamic Association of Students, a 12-point resolution was issued and read out.

In part of the resolution students called the strategic and fundamental slogans of the revolution, such as, "Neither east, nor west", to be safeguarded.

The resolution also emphasized the implementation of [UN] Resolution 598 and the students called on international associations to review the Iraqi regime's obstructionist policies.

Britain Condemned

LD0605182690 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—University students rallied from Tehran University to the former U.S. den of espionage (Embassy) Sunday [6 May] to voice their support for the recent statements of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i strongly opposing resumption of ties with Washington.

The marchers set ablaze the American flag which has become a symbol of hatred in Muslim and Third World countries, and chanted "Death to the U.S.' during the rally in condemnation of Washington's continued hostility towards the Islamic revolution.

They also lashed out at the British Government for deporting a number of Iranian Muslim students, and called on the Foreign Ministry to prevent expansion of economic relations between the two countries.

A resolution read at the end of the rally underlined the importance of the guideline set by the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni for continuing the relentless struggle against oppression and arrogance.

"The Islamic Republic should never expect such establishments as the European Economic Community, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, mainly formed to dominate the whole world and run by big arrogant powers and Islam's sworn foes especially the U.S., to help or cooperate with it," the resolution said.

It also criticized the U.N. secretary-general and the Security Council for failing to employ necessary levers in order to force the Iraqi regime to implement Resolution 598.

Similar demonstrations were held by students throughout the country against resumption of ties with the U.S.

Majles Committee Studies Letter From Iraq

LD0605172690 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—The Majles Foreign Policy Committee today studied the letter sent by Iraq to the Islamic Republic Government. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and some officials from his ministry also attended the session, to discuss the latest developments concerning U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

The Iraqi regime's letter was also studied by the National Security Council last week.

There is no report available on the contents of the letter, the first of its kind from Ba'thist Iraq to Islamic Iran, following the August 20, 1988 ceasefire.

Judiciary Reviews Domestic, Foreign Policy

LD0605205290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Today a consultative meeting of judiciary officials chaired by Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, discussed the explicit and decisive remarks and clear stance on the country's foreign policy, especially with regard to direct talks with the United States, of his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution. These issues were raised, stressed and given full support. Domestic concerns were also addressed.

In the meeting, Mr. Yazdi stressed the need to seriously combat drug smugglers and to exercise greater strength in uprooting the ruinous problem. The issue of some prisoners, whose cases take a long time because they are insolvent, was also discussed and necessary decisions were taken.

In addition, the meeting discussed the issue of pardoning offenders on the basis of the Constitution and ordinary laws through a permanent body which would make proposals to the eminent leader.

In today's meeting of judiciary officials, the issue of people who have a similar name to suspected, condemned, or banned [from financial transactions] people was discussed. It was decided that in verdicts issued by courts and in summonses issued by public prosecutor's offices, all the characteristics and details should be stipulated so that problems [of mistaken identity] do not arise.

Mohajerani Thanks Khamene'i for Letter

LD0505093790 Tehran IRNA in English 0848 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—Vice-President for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani here Saturday [5 May] expressed his deep gratitude to the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i for his kindness.

Mohajerani whose article on direct talks with the U.S. became a controversial subject and raised criticism of the high-ranking officials and media, was referring to the Wednesday [2 May] letter of Ayatollah Khamene'i in which he said his comment on the issue were well-wished.

Ayatollah Khamene'i in an address to a group of educators Wednesday morning, noted that those who proposed holding negotiations with the U.S. "are either simple-minded or terrified."

Later on the same day in a note to Mohajerani, Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that his comments on the article which appeared in an afternoon daily about a week ago, were well-wished and not meant to hurt Mohajerani's feelings.

Ayatollah Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers 4 May

LD0405182190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 4 May 90

[Second sermon of the Friday Prayers delivered by Ayatollah Yazdi in Tehran on 4 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted]

In this sermon I will refer to a number of issues as appropriate, and will try to make them very brief.

Before I start my remarks I should mention the main reason that I did not have the opportunity of being here at your service for a while, why the opportunity was taken away from me to come to this holy podium and trouble you, was because of illness. Thank God it is cured and that the remaining part of it will also be cured, with the good wishes from all friends. The reason I mention this is to avoid interpretations, comments, analysis, and talk, and perhaps because some people may engage in backbiting. Some friends told me that I should definitely mention this. Otherwise I thought there was no need.

The first issue is about the importance of the comprehensive, interesting and extraordinary remarks made by his eminence the honorable leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i [participants chant prayers in support of Khamene'i] following the path laid by the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence the Imam, may God's benedictions be upon him. He mentioned some issues with clarity and decisiveness. All of us have heard the remarks in detail, and some perhaps repeatedly. I refer to some main points of the remarks. The first topic centered on self-confidence and self-discovery and on making Muslims aware that they themselves can manage their own affairs without having to rely on foreign powers. In fact, it has to be said that this was the first fruit of the Islamic revolution, as interpreted by His Eminence the Imam, may God's benedictions be upon him: It was the inner revolution in human beings. It was the realization that we ourselves are capable of managing our own affairs and that there is no need to rely on others, including foreigners. The idea of depending on others spread throughout the world for many years, and it is still thought valid. The idea that the Third World cannot survive without depending on big powers is still promoted by new methods in some places. This at a time when the Islamic revolution of Iran and the Iranian revolution proved that Muslims can manage their own affairs and do not need foreigners. That was the first point which was stressed in the remarks of the esteemed leader—that we should rely on ourselves and the talents inside Islamic society should be developed and used while believing that we are capable of solving our problems without asking others for help, in particular with regard to economic problems. Sometimes, as a result of evil propaganda, some think that without foreigners entering the economic scene we are not able to manage. As you see, the government's five year plan approved by the Islamic Consultative Majles is planned in such a way that through use of internal resources, expert manpower, and resources either underground or overground, God willing, we will solve all our problems. That was the first topic to which attention should be paid. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, among our people, among our officials, among all strata of our society, there is this feeling that we have no need of foreigners, and that under no circumstances do we need to have contacts, talks, or discussions with the foreigners. This, in fact, is tantamount to being deceived on certain issues by the enemy and being trapped by the enemy for lacking faith in our own ability to manage our affairs. We are a nation whose experiences during the past 11 years have shown that in the face of the most difficult problems and the heaviest burdens, which were imposed upon us by world arrogance—such as eight years of war—we were able to confront those problems and never show humility or abjectness in the face of world arrogance, especially the Great Satan America, the severance of relations with which, as His Eminence the Imam remarked, was a fundamental and correct step. This period after that time demonstrated that we have no need of America and that, naturally, under the present conditions, which are much better than the conditions of two, three or five years ago—even under the conditions of a few years ago no one ever said that we had to have relations with the great Satan or that we had to have talks with it—it is quite clear that under the present conditions it is even more the case that we should not do so.

Our experience has demonstrated, and the esteemed leader has also clearly said, that he is opposed to direct talks, that he is sure that the government is not in favor of it either, and that no one would ever do such a thing without his permission. [the crowd chants slogans, including Death to America] The essence of this remark is the same issue of self-confidence which the leader stressed most strongly.

The second point in his remarks was the matter of expression of views in a pure and sincere manner, free from slander, accusation, and lies. If certain individuals hold certain views and express their views, one should not be worried, made anxious or uncomfortable due to the expression of these opinions. They hold a certain opinion, which they have expressed. In response to those opinions we also possess certain arguments, logic, and proofs. We can discuss this with them and answer them. In his words, there is no need for making remarks which contain lies, accusations, or slander.

The reason I am enumerating some of the points in his speech because he stressed that we as responsible officials are duty bound to prevent such things. As the person in charge of the judiciary, I must say that whenever there are issues of accusation, slander, or lies, and if there are complaints regarding such matters, we shall undoubteldy follow up those complaints.

If someone in his remarks, in his writings, in the expression of his views from any of the podiums, in the press, or at gatherings wishes to achieve something through accusation, lies, and slander, then according to the law we are duty bound to deal with that person if we receive a complaint against him. I say it with full confidence that the judiciary will deal with such issues. I am surprised that an honourable judge openly and clearly asks me if a file has reached such and such a stage, and the names of such and such people are also involved, and asks me what he should do in dealing with it. I do not know why he is asking me this question. I asked him: What does the law tell you? All of us know the answer. The law says that such a person should be summoned, regardless of any position or responsibility that he holds; he should be interrogated, the issue should be investigated, and if it reaches a point where it should be handed to the courts, one should hand it to the courts. It makes no difference. Even a judge who has the highest position in the judicial system, who has the greatest responsibility, will be sent to the disciplinary tribunal, and it may reach a point where he will be sentenced to jail. At the moment, we have certain judges who are in prison. In other powers, whether the executive or the legislative power, the expectation is certainly not acceptable that if someone committed an offence which has a clear penalty under the law he should be immune because of his membership in the executive or the legislative organizations, or that the law should be waived. Law is enforceable. It applies to all, and it knows no distinctions.

During this very short time I have come across a few cases when, as I said, they formally tell me that such and such a person is at such and such a stage, and ask what to do. I have told them: You are duty bound to follow up the matter. I should be excused from mentioning their names, and one should not name them until the final verdict has been issued by the court. At that time, if necessary, one can announce their names and, but if not necessary, people's honor should be protected.

Please let me say that the honorable Majles deputies have at times asked: Why is such and such court case being held in secret? Why is it not open? Why do you not tell the people everything? The reason is that in certain cases concerning certain people the public should not be informed about the discussions, the charges, and the defense. However, if the Majles deems it necessary, it could appoint one, two, five, or any number of people to supervise court cases and see how they are progressing.

For the sake of safeguarding the reputation of those who have to live in this society, some of whom may be acquitted and some found guilty, it is basically not Islamic for a person's name and the charges against him to be published by the press as soon as he is summoned to court, before the final verdict is ascertained, and for his reputation to be marred.

That was the second point which the great leader stressed. There is freedom to discuss and express one's views. Everyone can, and they should; but without lies, libel, slander, or any other offense which is punishable by law.

Another point which the leader stressed is unity. The various classes of the society must preserve their unity. Differences of opinion should not result in disunity. We must work with each other.

Of course, there were several points in his speech, but I have selected only a few. Another point he made was when he said: Without my permission no one can establish ties with America. I want to use this phrase because it has to do with the jurisconsult. The principle of absolute jurisconsult dictate that when a decree or command is issued, everyone must obey. That is a theological interpretation, that in such cases, or at least in this particular case, no one is allowed to do the slightest thing without permission.

The last point is supporting the honorable government of our esteemed and dear brother, our honorable president, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which was clearly stated by the great leader. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, time is short, and I have some more to say about the Majles and then I will take my leave. About the issue of judicial police, which is being debated at the Majles at present—and as far as I know two of the debates are about the judicial police—I should say that the judicial police are the executive arm of the judiciary, before and after the verdict. The judicial police are not like ordinary police. [passage omitted]

I had also written a few words in Arabic, but it is a bit too long. If you will allow me, I will skip the first few pages and read the last few lines. In the first few pages, I just briefly refer to the fact that Muslims throughout the world are undoubtedly following the events which are occurring or have occurred in the world: recent events, whether they be in the East, with the collapse of the materialist and Communist governments; the removal of the walls which existed in Europe, and moving towards union; and the events underway in Lebanon, in Afghanistan. There is also the fact that it is being heard for the first time that the U.S. and French presidents conveyed greetings to their Muslims for the auspicious 'Id; and in particular, if the words which they used are carefully examined, many things may be understood. What words did Mr. Bush use when he conveyed greetings to U.S. Muslims? If you really respect Muslims, why do you always repeat the phrase: Let bygones be bygones?

You always commit your crimes and then say: Let bygones be bygones. You attack a passenger plane with missiles, you cause the death of innocent people, then you say: Sorry about that. It was a mistake. Let us forget about it. You commit the worse crimes everywhere and then you say: Sorry about that. What kind of system is that? What kind of government is it?

As you probably know—I learned this just before I came—recently, because of, in my opinion, the fact that our eminent leader unequivocally and decisively ruled

out the question of negotiating with the United States—he opposed it—the gentlemen had brought everything down to the issue of the hostages, and all the issues of the world had been reduced to such an extent that only the issue of hostage-taking in Lebanon and making deals over hostages remained. The issue of making deals over hostages has become the greatest political issue in the world; but they were and are after other things. [sentence as heard] Under such conditions, when they see that our leader says those things unequivocally, then two U.S. newspapers raise the point that: Yes, the question of Halabja was like this and like that. And what country did the poisonous substances which killed the people of Halabjah come from? In the end, they are not prepared to confirm Iraq's crimes, even in passing.

You can therefore see that the general policy of global arrogance is always this: raising an issue by way of deviation, and acting upon its own fundamental and vital interests behind the scenes. When it sees that there are leaders who pursue matters with the greatest care and precision, it creates another problem. In my opinion, raising the issue of Halabja and analyzing the poisons which led to the martyrdom of those innocent servants of God and to the realization of that crime by Iraq—that is again a deviatory issue which has been raised in the face of current developments. [passage omitted]

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [Koranic verse omitted]

Yazdi Says Khamene'i 'Commands' Require Obedience

LD0405121790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Politico-religious rites of Friday prayers were held all over the country today. The residents of Tehran, meanwhile, today arrived at Tehran University and the adjacent streets to hold the rites of the politico-religious Friday prayers under the leadership of Ayatollah Yazdi.

In the second version of the prayers the chief of the Judiciary referred to the vast dimensions of the recent remarks by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, and said the primary point of the exalted leader's remarks centered on such topics as having self-confidence, and rediscovering one's own identity. Ayatollah Yazdi said: The exalted leader drew the attention of the Muslims to the fact they can run their own affairs without having to rely on foreigners. This was in fact the first fruit of the Islamic revolution: In the words of his holiness the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, it [the Islamic revolution] was a revolution from within human consciousness. It enables us to understand we have the power to run our own affairs without being in need of the foreigners. By implementing the Five-Year Plan we can deploy all potential and actual domestic resources to remove problems gradually. In fact the experience of the past 11 years, including the conspiracy of eight years of imposed war, has proven our nation can stand steadfast against the most difficult problems and plots by the enemies. It has shown our nation will never bow to arrogance. As the imam of ummah, may he be admitted to God's paradise, has said, severence of ties with the United States was a correct move which was achieved. Now the exalted leader has said that without his permission, no one can do anything on that issue. As far as we are concerned, for us these remarks by the leader are commands by the vice-regency of the cause, as well as government policy. The principle of velayat-e faqih [vice-regency of the jurisconsult] defines the absolute nature of the powers of vice-regency. Therefore obedience [to the command of the vice-regent] is incumbent on all.

Ayatollah Yazdi then referred to the emphasis the leader has placed on preservation of unity and solidarity of the people to safeguard the achievements of the revolution. He then said: As the exalted leader has said, there is no bar on expression of views by individuals as long as such an act is pure and clean and shuns slander, mendacity, and defamation. Therefore, as the person in charge of the judiciary, I declare if some people are found to try to achieve their ends through false accusations, slander, and lies in their writings in the press or in their statements in gatherings, then the judicial power will have to act upon receiving any complaints. Here all individuals, no matter in what position or level, will be equal before the law.

Referring to the grave responsibilities of the authorities and the people in supporting the government to solve the problems, the head of the Judiciary said such support also is a religious duty that must be performed. He also referred to the close cooperation between the judicial power and the Majles in solving the problems faced by the judiciary and legislature. As to the importance of the [draft] law on the campaign against economic saboteurs he reminded [his audience] that in the economic system of the country economic saboteurs faced heavy sentences such as death. He then called on Majles representatives to exercise maximum precision in drafting the said law—by choosing terms which are comprehensive, precise, and explicit, and yet which are not open to double meaning and different interpretations. That way the law can clarify the issues in precise terms and its implementation will not be faced with difficulty.

Upcoming 'Large-Scale' Naval Maneuvers Described

NC0705060090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Large-scale maneuvers codenamed "Sahand" are to take place with the participation of units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] Naval Precinct No. 2 and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The maneuvers, which will continue for six days, will begin on 13 May in the azure waters of the Persian Gulf.

The commander of IRGC Naval Precinct No. 2 spoke to correspondents yesterday. Announcing the above, he described the aim of the maneuvers—in which a few

thousand IRGC and Armed Forces personnel will participate jointly—as the upgrading of the level of the military expertise of the commanders and the IRGC and Armed Forces personnel.

He added: These maneuvers will be held in the area of (Ra's al Mataf) to the northeast of Khark Island and will be conducted under a joint command. They will include commando and anticommando exercises, shooting at floating hypothetical targets above the water, combat by floating units against air attacks, aerial attacks by helicopters and aircraft on targets above the water, bombing of the coast, carrying out amphibious maneuvers, the conducting of heliboard [preceding word in English] operations, mine-laying, minesweeping, the crossing of mined canals, and the counteracting of chemical attacks.

Saudis Oppose Pilgrims Traveling to Mecca

LD0505180190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] The representative of the vali-y faqih [vice regent of the jurisconsult] and head of the Hajj and Awqaf [religious endowments] organization announced in an interview with IRNA: Despite extensive mediation efforts by Islamic countries, the Saudi Government is against Iranian pilgrims going to that country to undertake hajj rituals. Therefore, Iranian pilgrims will not be blessed with going to noble Mecca this year either.

Jamarani Protests Hajj 'Obstacles'

LD0505150290 Tehran IRNA in English 1434 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—A ranking official Saturday said that despite extensive mediation efforts by certain Muslim countries, the Saudi Government continues to oppose the participation of Iranian pilgrims for the year's hajj.

In the aftermath of the July 31, 1987 massacre of hajj pilgrims in Mecca in which over 400 "guests of God"—mostly Iranians—were martyred by the Saudi police near the holy Ka'ba, the Riyadh regime in clear violation of Islamic tenets has barred Iranian Muslims from performing the divinely enjoined hajj pilgrimage.

Head of the Hajj and Awqaf (religious endowments) Organisation Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Imam Jamarani reiterated that Iran had emphatically stressed that issues pertaining to the Islamic world should be expressed during the great annual hajj gathering.

But, he added, the Saudi Government had always opposed the idea.

Jamarani questioned Saudi control over Islam's holiest cities, and pointed out that the regime in Riyadh was not competent to administer Islam's holiest sites, in view of its dark bloodstained record.

He went on to cite the massacre of the "guests of God", the barring of Iranian pilgrims, beheading of 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims, destroying of holy shrines in the Hijaz, and its committing of numerous other crimes.

Therefore, stressed Jamarani, administration of holy places in the Hijaz should be delegated to a council of Islamic countries.

He noted that Saudi Arabia had once again created obstacles in the way of Iranian pilgrims, while the Islamic Republic accepting mediation by Muslim countries had proved its utmost goodwill.

Reaction to OPEC Strategy on Oil Prices

TEHRAN TIMES Editorial

NC0405145490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Oil Price Slump Due to Political Pressure"]

[Text] OPEC's 8-man market monitoring committee will hold a meeting on May 2 in Geneva to find ways of combating the declining world oil prices.

Oil prices have declined by 2 to 3 dollars a barrel since the start of April due to the saturation of the oil markets. This sudden and significant reduction in price results from over-prodution by certain members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

With warm weather approaching in the Northern Hemisphere, every year the market demand for oil declines at this time and this is not considered something new. All the exporters are aware of this. Under these conditions we witness that OPEC oil output for the month of March, which is the first month of the changing weather in the Northern Hemisphere, reached 24 million barrels per day, i.e. two million more than the agreed amount.

The main cause of the over-production are violations by three countries, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE met in Jeddah last week to discuss the weak prices in the market. It has apparently been announced that Saudi Arabia will reduce its output by 600,000 barrels per day from next month while Kuwait would reduce its production by about 200,000 barrels per day.

Despite this agreement, informed observers believe that the main difficulties of OPEC and the reduction in oil prices are the result of suspicious political moves by Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) countries.

Members of the PGCC act in this manner led by Saudi Arabia to put political pressure on other OPEC members. Of course the Saudis try to pretend that they don't play such an important role in the reduction of prices, but this is because Saudi Arabia does not want to be isolated among other OPEC members or to impair its leading role in OPEC. This is why it pursues its political

objectives from reduction of oil prices, through other PGCC members, particularly Kuwait and the UAE.

Oil Minister Views Accord

LD0405123690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Our country's oil minister termed the new accord by the OPEC oil ministers as a suitable solution for preventing a further fall in the price of oil on the market. He said: Ministers participating in the meeting of the supervisory committee of OPEC arrived at full agreement. The said meeting was held last Wednesday and Thursday [2 and 3 May] in Geneva in the presence of the oil ministers of all the members of OPEC.

According to an IRNA report, Mr. Aqazadeh said in a telephone interview: If the OPEC members manage to act on the agreement on lowering output levels, the oil market will definitely be adjusted. The OPEC members have agreed to lower their existing output by a total volume of 1.4 million barrels a day for May and June. For Iran and Iraq it means a production fall of 20,000 barrels per day each, and for Kuwait and the UAE 400,000 and 200,000 barrels per day respectively.

Our country's oil minister said that through bilateral and multilateral minsterial talks the said solution was acheived. Iran, Iraq, Indonesia, Algeria, and Qatar agreed to bring their output below their official quotas.

The oil minister stressed that the production fall for the said five countries does not imply output for them [as heard]. In fact, they will temporarily lower their official quota until the next OPEC conference in two months time in an effort to improve prices and in the interests of OPEC.

Mr. Aqazadeh warned that failure to honor the recent decision may aggrevate the difficulties. On demand for OPEC oil during the next two months the oil minister of Iran said: The ministers regarded the level of 22 million barrels a day as adequate to maintain market stability. They arrived at that level quite quickly. He explained that usually in this season some sort of fall in prices can be expected but the market will definitely improve during the second half of the current Christian year.

He said that prior to the next OPEC meeting he will have contacts with the heads of some of the members of the organization. He may possibly travel to some of these countries to prepare a better ground for the next meeting. Members of the OPEC supervisory commitee are Iran, Arabia, UAE, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Algeria. However, in the meeting of the supervisory committee during the past two days oil ministers of all the members of OPEC participated.

Oil Minister Statement

NC0505111890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 May 90

[Statement by Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh on his return from Geneva at Tehran airport on 4 May—recorded]

[Text) In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. During the two days of concentrated talks by all 13 OPEC members in Geneva, we assessed the market and its prevailing prices. Most of the countries came to the conclusion that if they reduce their current ceiling by 1.5 million barrels of oil daily, market conditions can change. Of course this reduction concerned those countries with surplus production. A number of countries maintained their production quotas, but in order to be able to affect the market, these countries also volunteered to reduce production. As an example, Iran agreed to voluntarily reduce production by 20,000 barrels [per day] until the next session.

On the whole, it was decided to reduce the OPEC production ceiling by 1.5 million barrels of oil per day. Of course, we think that this reduction will suffice to change market conditions. But the major problem is how countries will react to this decision. During the session, everyone took steps to reduce their production immediately as agreed. If they do so, I hope that prices will immediately rise. Of course now our prices—since in the past I felt that I had to give an explanation—when our prices dropped, the minimum that it reached during the past two weeks was $13. [sentence as heard] When the news on the session was published, prices rose to $15. Prices remain at the same level now. We hope that reduced production will have its effects and that prices will reach the minimum basket price of $18.

I would like to say in conclusion that if the decision adopted by the session is violated by any country, we have decided to come out and openly announce which countries are to blame for the market conditions.

Radio Commentary

NC0705100090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 May 90

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] At the end of last week, the oil ministers of 13 OPEC member countries convened a session for the supervision of the OPEC market. They decided that, in order to prevent a further reduction in oil prices and to bolster them, the effective lever of the reduction of production ceilings should be utilized.

According to the decisions made at this session, the current production of OPEC should be reduced by 1.445 million barrels per day. This reduction should remain in force for two months. The majority of the OPEC members at this session believed that, with the production of

22 million barrels per day, the oil market would become more balanced and prices would reach the level specified by the organization.

Prior to the recent session of the committee for supervision of the market, OPEC production was about 24 million barrels per day. With the intensive implementation of the latest decisions, we can be optimistic that the recent drop in oil prices will be compensated for.

The reaction of the international market to the recent decisions adopted by the OPEC ministers has varied. In the beginning, with the dissemination of the OPEC decision to reduce production, oil prices rose to a certain extent. However, later, with the doubts expressed in oil circles regarding the scrupulous implementation of these decisions, prices showed a further drop.

During the past two days, as it was a weekend, there were no transactions in the Asian and European markets. We should therefore wait until this morning's dealings to see what the trend is in oil price fluctuations. Although Hisham Nazir, the Saudi petroleum minister, said in an interview that he did not understand the negative reaction of the market, the doubts in oil circles on the scrupulous implementation of the OPEC decisions stem from the performance of some of the members of this organization.

On the whole, ever since 1983, when the system of quotas was first introduced in OPEC in light of the developments in the international oil market, OPEC has been confronted with the problem known as the violation of quotas. Because of the lack of a logical system in stipulating quotas in OPEC, the level of the quotas is a constant source of objection on the part of the members. The problem of the violation of quotas continues in OPEC and, in conditions of stagnation in the oil market, it exerts an adverse effect on prices.

In the 86th OPEC session, the production ceiling of the organization for the first half of 1990 was specified at 22 million barrels per day. However, in practice, the production of some of the members and, in particular, that of the UAE and Kuwait, exceeded their official quotas. This surplus production, with a simultaneous seasonal fall in demand, was the reason why oil prices plummeted. In present circumstances, if the OPEC members do not abide by their current commitments, one should not expect any substantial change in the trend of the oil market.

The reaction of the transgressing members of the OPEC to the latest decisions of the organization in the past two days gives rise to hope, however. The UAE announced in this regard, shortly after the conclusion of the session of the committee for the supervision of the oil market, that it would immediately reduce its production to 200,000 barrels per day. An official spokesman of the Kuwaiti Petroleum Ministry also said that his country would soon curtail its production level. The opinion of Saudi Arabia has also been positive on the recent OPEC committee decisions. As regards the lowering of OPEC production ceilings, we must bear in mind that this curtailment in production will further cut the official quotas of Iran, Iraq, Indonesia, Algeria, and Qatar, but for the remaining members, it will merely represent a reduction in their present production level.

Even though the latest OPEC decisions will be binding until the next session of the organization in two months' time, one should be vigilant lest some of the members capitalize on these decisions to attain their objective of increasing their official quotas.

In any case, the recent logical decision of OPEC was aimed at an increase in prices, and our petroleum minister is very hopeful of a rise in oil prices. He said in an interview in Geneva that from next month the price of a barrel of crude will reach $18, which is the minimum preferential price ceiling [hadd-e aqal-e saqf-e baha-ye tarjihi] specified by OPEC.

An enhancement of oil prices in the future will not be tantamount to a solution of OPEC's quota problems. This organization's committee on long-term strategy should resolve this problem in a fundamental manner until such time as world demand for oil exceeds OPEC's producing ability.

The violations by some of the OPEC members may be elaborated in the perspective of short-term and long-term objectives. Countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE are constantly lobbying for the reduction of oil prices in order that the demand for greater production by OPEC may be raised. At the same time, they endeavor to impose their demands on the other OPEC members by causing a glut in the oil market and a reduction in prices.

In any case, a difference of opinion among the OPEC members can only be eliminated within the framework of the formulation of a long-term strategy, one in which OPEC's production level and the desired price ceiling will be logically in proportion. In an interview on the specification of production levels and prices by OPEC, our country's petroleum minister said: In the next two or three years, when OPEC's production capability reaches its limit and prices remain low, we may well witness a shock in the oil market.

On the other hand, the maintainance of a low ceiling of production is not a realistic policy. Both should be increased in order to cater to supply and demand. Changes in the price of crude should be linked to inflation.

PRC Parliamentary Leader Wan Li Arrives

Meets Karrubi

LD0605174890 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—Chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress Wan Li arrived here this afternoon and was welcomed by Majles Speaker Hojjat

ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi. The visit is aimed at further expansion of Tehran-Beijing ties as well as exchange of views over regional and international issues, Wan told reporters upon arrival.

Hoj. Karrubi also said that the visit takes place in response to the visit of the then Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Beijing in 1985.

"I hope the visit would help cement mutual ties," he added.

Wan is accompanied by his vice-chairman and Chinese deputy foreign minister.

Karrubi, Wan Speak

LD0605190390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Mr. Wan Li, the chairman of the of the PRC National People's Congress Standing Committee arrived in Tehran this afternoon. He was invited by Majles Speaker Karrubi. He was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by the Majles speaker and a number of Majles deputies.

Following his arrival in Tehran Mr. Wan Li, announcing his pleasure with visiting Iran, referred to the long-standing Iranian-Chinese relations and said: Friendly cooperations between the PRC's [national] Congress and the Majles, as well as relations betwene the two countries, have very much expanded during recent years in various fields and we are satisfied with the process of the cooperations. The visits of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i and Mr. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the PRC had important effects on the expansion of bilateral relations between Iran and China.

At the end of his interview Mr. Wan Li said: During this visit I will meet the speaker of the Majles and other officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and discuss with them expansion of bilateral cooperations and international and regional issues. I am confident that this visit will strengthen mutual understanding and friendship and will cause expansion and deepening of relations and friendly cooperations between the PRC's Congress and the Islamic consultative Majles and the two countries' cooperations in various fields.

Also, Majles Speaker Karrubi, in an interview with our correspondent, explained the aim of the visit of the chairman of the PRC National People's Congress Standing Committee.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Karrubi, please tell us what is the aim of the visit to Iran of the chairman of the PRC National People's Congress Standing Committee.

[Karrubi] As you are informed, first Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was invited [to China] and he visited when he was the Majles speaker. Both Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and I invited him to make a visit and in fact this visit takes place following Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's invitation. This was the first point. The second point, you and everyone are well aware our relations with China are extensive and wide-ranging. We have relations in economic, political, and cultural fields. In particular the two countries' parliaments have played a very good role in those relations and this visit especially takes place at the same time as the formation of the friendship groups between Iran and China. Our Chinese friends had previously introduced their members to us and expect that we introduce our [words indistinct]. We formed a group and introduced [them].

It is natural that the formation of those friendship groups between China and Iran will help the expansion of relations. Another issue is that the visit themselves by the two parliaments and the deputies can be effective on the strengthening and deepening of the relations.

[Correspondent] Yes. Thank you. [end recording]

Ahmad Khomeyni Supports Khamene'i Policies

LD0605111890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] A number of personnel of the commando training centre and the politico-ideological, training and conscription departments of the ground forces, a group of teachers and pupils from Tehran and Qazvin, and the director general of the department of education and training of Tehran Province met Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at Jamaran this morning.

During the meeting, referring to the recent remarks by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the custodian of the Order of the Muslims, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni said: The great leader of the Islamic revolution referred to two important points. One was freedom of speech, and the other was dealing with America. Freedom of speech is a fundamental issue within the context of Islamic freedom.

He then expressed support for the policies of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and referred to economic problems. He said: Economic problems should be fundamentally appraised.